

TASS: U.S. plans space weapon test

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union on Saturday said the United States plans to test an anti-satellite system next month and pointed to those plans as further evidence Washington is trying to evade proposed space weapons talks in Vienna. The official Soviet news agency TASS also repeated Soviet assertions that the United States has yet to agree to the Soviet-mandated agenda limiting the September conference to the discussion of demilitarising space. TASS described U.S. efforts to bring up other arms issues at the Vienna talks as "demagoguery and substitution of one subject for another." And the agency reiterated Soviet demands for a moratorium on development and deployment of space weapons. The United States "has planned out a test of anti-satellite weapons for next month, and therefore it is evading a reply concerning both a moratorium and non-deployment of space arms in general," TASS said.

(See earlier story on page 8)

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Ceausescu, Marchais urge halt to missile sitings

BUCHAREST (AP) — The Communist leaders of Romania and France have called again for a halt to deployment of American and Soviet missiles in Europe. The statement came in a communiqué following a meeting of President and party chief Nicolae Ceausescu and Georges Marchais, secretary-general of the French Communist Party. "The two general secretaries pointed out that everything possible should be done to halt the emplacement of the U.S. missiles in Europe and the application of the Soviet countermeasures," the communiqué said.

2 Britons vanish in Saudi desert

DHAHRAN (AP) — The fate of two British workers reported missing for a week was still unknown Saturday, despite a search-and-rescue operation over wide areas of Saudi Arabia's eastern province. Saudi helicopters and desert patrol cars were searching for John R. Avery 43, and Stephen O. Spencer-Chapman who left their Dharhan homes July 20 on what was intended as a one-day motorbike excursion in the desert. They have not been seen since. The two missing men worked for the U.S. construction company Bechtel, according to Saudi defence force and police officials involved in the search operation.

Iran denies it quit OPEC

TEHRAN (R) — Iran Saturday denied it had taken any steps to pull out of OPEC and said rumours to this effect were baseless. An oil ministry spokesman "categorically denied" rumours that Iran had pulled out of the oil exporting group and said they were "baseless", IRNA, the Iranian news agency said.

Chamoun aide missing in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — A press aide to Finance Minister and ex-President Camille Chamoun has been missing and presumed kidnapped in west Beirut, police reported Saturday. Police said Rudolf Baulkeitz was crossing with a friend, George Sorsok, to east Beirut when their car was stopped Friday afternoon by an unidentified militia checkpoint. They have since been missing. Mr. Chamoun's office said the minister has called the commands of various militias in West Beirut, urging extensive efforts to secure the release of the two men.

Chinese attack foiled, Hanoi says

BANGKOK (AP) — Hanoi claimed Saturday that its border forces last Sunday repulsed a company of Chinese troops who intruded into the Vietnamese province of Ha Tuyen. A brief report from the Vietnam News Agency, monitored in Bangkok, said Vietnamese guards "put out of action" 15 intruders and seized two guns and two radio sets from the Chinese troops who fled back into China.

Karami in Jeddah for Saudi help

JEDDAH (AP) — Lebanese Premier Rashid Karami arrived Saturday to gain Saudi Arabian support for security arrangements in his trouble-ridden country and financial aid to rebuild its devastated economy.

Arab news services said Mr. Karami was to ask the Saudi leadership to intercede with Washington for a complete withdrawal of Israeli invasion troops from southern Lebanon regions.

Saudi Arabia is believed to be the United States' closest friend in the Arab World, and Mr. Karami believes Washington might bring pressure to bear on Israel for an early withdrawal from Lebanon. Israel, which invaded Lebanon in the summer of 1982, has been occupying southern Lebanon regions since the invasion.

The Karami government has been trying to implement a security programme in southern Lebanon, where Israeli forces and private armies would be replaced by Lebanese army units.

Lebanon, which recently abrogated a troop withdrawal accord with Israel, was now seeking "indirect" negotiations with the Jewish state to get the invasion forces out of that country.

Mr. Karami, official sources said, wants Saudi Arabia to ask Washington to prod Israel into accepting the blueprinted Lebanese security arrangements.

Mr. Karami, they added, also was to put in a renewed request for Saudi Arabian financial aid to help resuscitate Lebanon's ailing economy, bled white by about nine years of civil war and foreign military interventions.

Mr. Karami was expected to hold several sessions of talks with

King Fahd, who doubles as prime minister of the kingdom.

Arab diplomatic sources noted that Saudi Arabia has already announced it was eager to help Lebanon out, if the civil war was ended.

Mr. Karami, they added, was carrying three files to King Fahd — one on projected political reforms in Lebanon, another on steps taken so far and others to be implemented shortly to consolidate security conditions, and the third on financial requirements to revive the economy.

The Saudis last March promised to "build, develop and reconstruct Lebanon, on condition peace, security and stability prevailed."

The promise was made by Minister of State Mohammad Massoud in Lausanne, Switzerland, with Lebanese faction leaders held a national reconciliation conference.

The official Qatar news agency reported from Beirut that a recent Arab summit conference in Fez, Morocco, appropriated \$2 billion to be given Lebanon by Arab oil-producing countries.

It added that Lebanon has received \$400 million from these countries.

Diplomatic sources said that Saudi Arabia five months ago decided to freeze its aid to Lebanon because of deteriorating conditions between Lebanese militias at the time.



MOMENT OF TRIUMPH: The winners of the fourth Jordan Rally, Mohammad Ibn Sulayman (right) and Hassan Ali Taleb of the United Arab Emirates, hold aloft their trophies Saturday as Royal Automobile Club (RAC) President Walid Asfour looks on and RAC official Ghassan Asfour applauds at a special ceremony held at the Amman Marriott Hotel Saturday (Photo by Bill Lyons)

Iraq says ties with U.S. depend on American policy

BAGHDAD (AP) — A "relative change" in U.S. policy towards the Arabs "is not impossible" and Iraq would resume diplomatic relations with Washington if it felt that such a move was in the interest of the Arab World, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Saturday.

The remarks came in a commentary carried by INA dealing with Iraq's international relations with the U.S., Western Europe, the socialist countries and the Non-Aligned Movement.

The commentator, Usama Al Salehi, said that Iraq's foreign relations stemmed from "a strategic approach taking into consideration the prerequisites of Arab national liberation struggle in order that these relations be set in a manner (that) fully corresponds with both Iraqi national and pan-Arab needs."

"It was for this reason that

Iraq's relations with the United States, Western Europe, socialist countries and within the Non-Aligned Movement were set in accordance with the attitudes of these world groupings vis-a-vis Arab causes."

"Therefore, contradicting stands between Iraq and the United States remained as sharp as before, a contradiction which can only be eliminated through a radical change in the U.S. policy towards major Arab causes," it said.

"Despite U.S. continued backing of the Zionist (Israel) aggression on the Arab Nation, Iraq sees that relative changes in this policy is not impossible. When in future Iraq feels that a resumption of its ties with U.S. will be in the interest of national and pan-Arab causes, it will resume relations with Washington, whether during or after the war against Iran," the commentary added.

Arafat arrives in Iraq after talks in Kuwait

BAGHDAD (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Baghdad Saturday for talks with Iraqi leaders on their 46-month-old war with Iran and Palestinian issues.

Mr. Arafat flew to Baghdad from Kuwait where he spent the day in talks with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and his apparent, Sheikh Sa'ad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Palestinian sources said Mr. Arafat was expected to visit Jordan after briefing Iraqi leaders on the outcome of his recent Asian tour and renewed efforts by an Islamic committee seeking an end to the Gulf war.

The committee, of which Mr. Arafat is a member, met in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, earlier this month and decided to approach the two countries in a fresh effort to end their fighting.

Mr. Arafat's talks in Baghdad, the sources said, would also cover efforts to patch up differences within the Palestine Liberation Organisation which he heads.

Mr. Arafat's visit to Iraq follows an Asian tour in which he met the leaders of Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

Iraq, Iran report action on battlefield

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said its helicopter gunships pounded Iranian positions in the northern sector of the battlefield Saturday, scoring direct and effective hits and returning safely to their bases.

This was the second straight day in which reports helicopter attacks in the northern fronts, where earlier this week it said its forces repulsed an Iranian offensive killing at least 68 Iranian soldiers.

Iranian war reports appeared to be confirming the Iraqi announcements. IRNA, the official Iranian news agency, claimed the Iranian forces shot down one of two attacking Iraqi choppers in Sardasht Friday.

In a separate dispatch from Bakhtaran province, IRNA said Iraqi forces launched an offensive on Sumar in the central sector of the battlefield in the past 24 hours, but the attack, which was the fourth in a week in the same area, was "repulsed" by the Iranian forces.

An Iraqi war communiqué broadcast by Baghdad Radio said fire exchanges continued along the fronts, and charged that the Iranians shelled the northern Iraqi border town of Chandri.

Blast at Afghan rebel office kills four

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A car bomb exploded outside the headquarters of one of the main Afghan resistance groups in the Pakistan frontier town of Peshawar early Saturday, killing four people and injuring at least 12 others, officials said.

Peshawar police said three Afghan refugees and a Pakistani were killed, and that seven of the wounded were Afghans and the rest Pakistanis.

It was not immediately clear if the explosion was part of inter-party rivalry that has plagued the two dozen or so resistance groups that moved to Peshawar to direct guerrilla operations inside Afghanistan following the 1979 Soviet military intervention.

Afghans contacted at the scene said the bomb was detonated in a Toyota parked outside the offices of the Hezb-i-Islami.

Hezb leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was away at the time, although he normally is at the office on Saturday mornings.

The Hezbi office immediately issued a statement accusing the KGB of planting the bomb and pledged that Mujahadeen groups will soon mount a "heavy attack on a military target in Soviet territory as a countermeasure."

The group also vowed to stage attacks on the Soviet embassy in Kabul, the Afghan capital, as well as on one Soviet facility abroad.

The statement, telephoned to reporters here, did not specify where.

Local officials did not rule out the possibility of inter-party rivalry and noted that Mr. Gulbuddin has long been accused by rival Mujahadeen groups of sabotaging their operations inside Afghanistan.

Mr. Gulbuddin has also been accused of selling out to the Soviet Union in a bid to head a new gov-

U.S. Muslims convene near Detroit

DEARBORN, Michigan (AP) — Nations in which Islam is the predominant religion would benefit by providing more financial support to U.S. Muslims, an official of the federation of Islamic associations in the United States and Canada says. "There is a very big lack of mosques in all the United States, and that is why we are looking at the oil countries — Saudi Arabia, of course — and Iraq is helping, but because of the war (with Iran), it's very minimal," said Nihad Hamed, general secretary of the federation. About 1,200 members of the federation began attending the organization's 33rd annual convention, which began this weekend in Dearborn, a Detroit suburb. Saudi Arabia provided the federation with 25,000 copies of the Holy Koran, said Mr. Hamed, an Egyptian who has lived 20 years in the United States. The Saudis also donated \$100,000 and Iraq contributed \$60,000 to help build the federation's headquarters in Redford township, another suburb, Mr. Hamed said.

World eyes focus on L.A. Olympics

LOS ANGELES (Agencies)

—The Olympic torch ended its 14,400-kilometre odyssey across America on Saturday and officials continued to keep secret the name of the runner who was scheduled to light the flame opening the 1984 Summer Games in a gala ceremony featuring music and a cast of more than 20,000.

Skies were sunny, the air relatively clean and temperatures were warm for the opening ceremony at the Los Angeles memorial coliseum on the University of Southern California campus. A select crowd of more than 90,000 paid up to \$650 apiece for tickets.

In one of the biggest global broadcasts of all time, an estimated 2.5 billion people will watch live television coverage of the spectacle involving 12,000 musicians and dancers.

The show was expected to begin at 4.30 p.m. (2330 GMT). President Reagan was to launch the games with a set script of 16 words — "I declare open the games of Los Angeles celebrating the 23rd Olympiad of the modern era." This is all he was allowed to say, in keeping with Olympic tradition.

Hours before the ceremony, it was still not clear whether political rows, highlighted by the Soviet-led boycott, that have plagued the games had been settled.

Libya's six-man squad — one weightlifter and five riders without horses for the equestrian event — were still doubtful starters for the opening parade of 7,800 athletes.

The official Libyan news agency JANA reported from Tripoli that the team had pulled out because the United States had refused visas to three Libyans who wanted to be accredited to the games as

journalists. But Libya's Olympic chief Bashir Attar-Bulsi, who Friday said a final decision had not been taken, failed to appear at a meeting with Peter Ueberroth, President of the Games Organising Committee, Friday night.

As the Olympic torch began the final stage of its journey from the site of the ancient games in Greece, the name of the person who will light the Olympic flame at the stadium was kept a closely-guarded secret.

But the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee (LAOOC) has said it will be a well-known American athlete, scorching rumours that the honour would go to Nadia Comaneci, Romania's Olympic gymnast queen.

Romania is the only East European Communist country to send a team to the games, breaking with the boycott by Moscow and 14 of its allies. The Soviet Union said it was staying away from Los Angeles because of inadequate security for athletes.

Two members of the Olympic marching band were injured Friday night when a man motorist authorities said wanted revenge against police moved down streaming pedestrians on a crowded sidewalk near an Olympic village, killing one young woman and injuring dozens. Police chief Daryl Gates said there is no indication the incident was connected with the games.

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Diplomats, official guests and tourists not to pay travel tax

AMMAN (J.T.) — Members of the diplomatic corps in Jordan are to be exempted from the additional tax at airports and border posts, according to a spokesman for the Finance Ministry. The spokesman, Isam Al Muhaisen, said that non-Jordanians staff employed by international and Arab organisations, guests of the Jordanian government and non-Jordanian tourist groups — not less than 15 persons in number — are also to be exempted from this tax.

He said that Jordanians invited

by other governments or international or regional organisations have to pay the tax upon departure but they can have it refunded from either their respective departments or their hosts.

Jordanians leaving the country on training courses will pay the tax but can get it refunded upon their return from abroad. Mr. Muhaisen said, quoting a cabinet decision on the matter, Jordanians leaving the country by air pay JD 10 and those by land pay JD 5.

Lebanese army begins second phase of Beirut security plan

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese army engineers detonated unexploded mines, mortars and grenades Saturday in the second phase of a peace plan to dismantle the "green line" which has split the capital for five and a half months.

The engineers, followed by civilian construction crews who removed barricades from the mine-swept areas, cleared the way for a Christian-Muslim army force to deploy on both sides of the line, which stretches eight kilometres from the port in the north to the southern suburbs.

"There is no longer east Beirut or west Beirut. There is just one united Beirut," Brigadier Mohammad Al Hajj, commander of a 5,000-man garrison deployed in the mostly Christian eastern and predominantly Muslim western halves of the capital, told reporters.

Army sources said a mixed force of about 2,500 soldiers from the garrison would move in once the clearing operations were completed, but no orders had yet been issued for that to deploy.

Workers of a construction company owned by Saudi Arabian businessman and mediator Rafiq Hariri began at dawn tearing down barricades made of sand, cars and cargo containers.

As the green line operations continued, Prime Minister Rashid Karami arrived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he was expected to ask King Fahd for reconstruction aid.

Earlier this week Mr. Karami visited Damascus, where he gained endorsement of this latest phase of a Syrian-brokered plan to disarm Beirut militias and bring the army back into control.

Under the first phase implemented earlier this month, the army re-opened three key road links along with the airport and port, which closed in February when militiamen wrested west Beirut from army control.

They held control of west Beirut, battling daily on the green line

with mostly Christian army units and "Lebanese Forces" militiamen controlling the eastern sector.

Much of Saturday's efforts concentrated on re-opening two more road links, which political observers said would help break a lingering psychological barrier among various communities.

"I hope that within a few days there will be no barricades anywhere in Beirut," Brig. Hajj said, adding the operation Saturday was "the beginning of the end" to Lebanon's 10-year civil war.

Others were not so optimistic. "Lebanese Forces" militiamen Nabil Zoghby watched the clearing operations and commented: "I don't know why they bother. Everybody fights for a few months, then they go home and take a rest. But in another few months they'll be back here again."

An army spokesman said the entire clearing operation could take several days to complete.

Libya, accusing U.S. of 'provocative' flights, announces major army exercises

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Libya announced Saturday that it is carrying out large-scale military manoeuvres using live ammunition in and around Tripoli, the capital.

The announcement by the official JANA news agency followed accusations by Libya that the United States had been carrying out provocative military manoeuvres off the Libyan coast in the Gulf of Sidra.

The manoeuvres would involve "militarised units that have been trained in using all types of weapons as well as units from the Libyan Arab air force and air defences," JANA said.

It gave no other details. Libya's regular armed forces number more than 65,000, but it also has thousands of troops in what it calls people's militias and revolutionary committees.

Earlier, JANA said that 164 U.S. F-14 jetfighters had flown over the disputed Gulf of Sidra for several hours on Thursday. It said Libyan jets chased away some of the American planes.

Libya called the flights a "blatant aggression" and said that the North African nation was ready to "confront the aggressors at whatever cost."

U.S. State Department officials said the F-14s conducted "routine flight operations" over the Gulf from the aircraft carrier Saratoga. They said the planes came within about 70 kilometres off the Libyan coast and did not encounter any Libyan planes.

Libya considers the Gulf of Sidra part of its territorial waters, but the United States does not recognise the claim. The dispute led to a dogfight three years ago in which U.S. jets shot down two

Libyan fighters over the Gulf.

It said Libya's foreign liaison bureau, or foreign ministry, had asked Libya's representative to the United Nations to lodge a complaint with the Security Council over the flights.

The Libyan account of the flights said the U.S. F-14s were conducting "provocative action" for nearly 13 hours in the Gulf area. One group of the aircraft was "intercepted... and chased out" of the waters, the dispatch said.

Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi bitterly opposes the United States, which he has often said is ready to "attack Libya at any moment." After two of his jets were shot down in the dogfight with U.S. F-14s in August 1981, he threatened that the Gulf of Sidra would turn into "a red bath of blood" if American forces re-entered the territory.

Howe, Wu hold 'in-depth' talks on Hong Kong

PEKING (Agencies) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and his Chinese counterpart Wu Xueqian had an "in-depth discussion" Saturday on Hong Kong, a Chinese government spokesman said.

Qi Huaiyun, director of the Foreign Ministry Information Department, did not divulge details of the discussion but said they would continue Sunday.

Mr. Howe arrived Friday from Hong Kong, his second mission to China in three months aimed at reaching an agreement on the political status of the colony when communist China recovers it in 1997, the year Britain's lease expires.

China has set a September deadline for an agreement.

"In a friendly and business-like atmosphere both sides reviewed useful progress made so far in the Sino-British talks on Hong Kong since the foreign secretary's visit to China last April, and conducted an in-depth discussion on the main aspects of the Hong Kong question," Mr. Qi told a news briefing for foreign and Chinese journalists.

Mr. Howe said in Hong Kong that he is seeking a binding, detailed agreement that will preserve Hong Kong's status as a free trading port and the world's third largest financial centre.

John Goulden, Mr. Howe's official spokesman, sought to counter reports in the Hong Kong press Saturday that the talks may not be proceeding as hoped.

"Sir Geoffrey Howe said on arrival in Hong Kong July 26th, although there are important issues to be resolved, the negotiations are on course. He also said we are doing our utmost to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion. This remains the British position," Mr. Goulden said in a statement.

Mr. Howe and Mr. Wu were each backed by 10 senior officials at the talks, held under tight security in a Chinese government house.

Noting that each side had 11 members, Mr. Howe joked: "I'm not sure whether we are going to play cricket or football."

British sources said Mr. Howe's statement in Hong Kong helped to ease anxieties. But some civic leaders voiced objections to a Chinese proposal for a Sino-British liaison group to monitor the 13-year period up to the handover.

They fear such a group, especially if it is based in Hong Kong, could undermine Britain's authority over the territory and damage stability.

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Ali: Egyptian-Soviet relations will not affect ties with U.S.

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt signalled Saturday that decision to exchange ambassadors with the Soviet Union will not affect ties to the United States and will not lead to greater Soviet influence in the largest Arab country.

The signals came in an interview by Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and a commentary in the weekly Akhbar Al Yom (news of the day).

In an interview with Akhbar Al Yom, Mr. Ali said the United States remains Egypt's major arms supplier. Last year the United States provided Egypt with \$1.3 billion worth of military hardware.

"I stress that the United States is our main supplier for weapons," Mr. Ali said. "The exchange of ambassadors between Cairo and Moscow will not change this reality in our policy."

Mr. Ali said relations with the United States "are built on mutual respect for the sovereignty of our two countries and I don't think

this relationship could be affected by the return of normal Egyptian-Soviet relations."

Earlier this month, the West German newspaper Die Welt quoted sources as saying Egypt was interested in purchasing Soviet SAM-3 surface-to-air missiles. Foreign Ministry sources said they knew nothing of the report.

Egypt and the Soviet Union announced this month that they would exchange ambassadors after a break of several years. The late President Anwar Sadat withdrew his ambassador to Moscow in 1978 following Soviet press attacks on his peace policy.

Three years later, Mr. Sadat expelled Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov for allegedly inter-

fering in Muslim-Christian strife. There has been no announcement on when the two new ambassadors will take up their posts.

In a commentary, Akhbar Al Yom said Egypt would never accept "a repetition of our previous relationship with the Soviet Union," which the newspaper described as "bitter and restrictive to our freedom."

The newspaper blamed the erosion of Soviet influence here on Moscow's insistence "to have complete economic, military, political control in Egypt... Egypt's leadership refused this position."

It said the decision to exchange ambassadors came after the Soviets decided to open "a new page, with no relationship based on our experience of the recent past."

"When Moscow became convinced of the inevitability of this new position, and the fact that there was no alternative, it agreed to resume normal relations with Egypt, to exchange ambassadors,

and to start a new page with Egypt which does not relate in any way to the old and rejected experiences," the paper added.

Under the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser, Egypt was the Soviet Union's closest ally in the Middle East. Moscow provided massive economic assistance as well as weapons with which Egypt fought its wars with Israel.

After Mr. Nasser's death in 1970, however, relations began to sour when the Soviets refused to provide Egypt with more weapons. Mr. Nasser's successor, Mr. Sadat, expelled 17,000 Soviet advisers in 1972 in reaction to the delay in weapons deliveries and began turning to the United States for weapons and economic aid.

Since Mr. Sadat's assassination in 1981, President Hosni Mubarak has been steering Egypt along a more non-aligned policy, maintaining links with the United States while making clear his government will not allow itself to be dominated by either superpower.



Hosni Mubarak

Cairo urges U.S., Israel to revive peace talks

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak called Saturday on the United States and Israel to make a "strong push" towards reviving peace talks following the U.S. presidential election in November.

"I hope there is a strong push to the peace process in the region after an Israeli government is formed and after the American elections are finished," Mr. Mubarak told reporters in Alexandria.

Mr. Mubarak said he was willing to deal "with any government which the Israeli people choose, whether it's Likud or Labour or any other party." But he made clear Egypt will not return its ambassador to Tel Aviv until Israel withdraws its troops from Lebanon, makes progress on solving the Palestinian problem and resolves a Sinai border dispute with Cairo.

Mr. Mubarak withdrew the envoy in Sept. 1982 following the massacre of Palestinian civilians by pro-Israeli Falangist militiamen in Beirut refugee camps under Israeli military control.

He said a Labour government with a strong electoral mandate might have relinquished control of civil administration functions such as education and health to local Arab authorities as a first step leading to an overall solution.

"Now, that approach seems out," he said.

Earlier this week, other American experts expressed concern that the lack of a clear majority at the polls could result in a prolonged period of paralysis for the Jewish state.

Robert Neumann, a former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Morocco, told Reuters that while he would not predict war, "trends could become very dangerous."

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Arabic programme captivates Olympic scene

LOS ANGELES (USIA) — Spectators awaiting the opening of the Olympic Games have been thrilled by the cultural programmes presented by the Arab-American Cultural and Athletic Committee honoring Arab athletes.

Paying tribute to the athletes of 16 Arab countries, the Americans of Arab heritage have fashioned a programme entitled "Unity Through Diversity."

The social functions emphasise the cultural, commercial, trade and folklore activities of the Arabs. Besides presenting films, dancing and cuisine, the Arabs have displayed Arab calligraphy and exhibits of the Arab World through photography.

The Arab documentary films include screenings that depict achievements in science, philosophy and architecture, the importance of the treasures of Tutankhamen, the industrialisation of Kuwait, the development of Saudi Arabia and the modern transformation of the Arabian peninsula.

A Saudi folklore troupe performed while an Arab textile exhibit and a Saudi traditional bedouin tent display were shown in conjunction with a Lebanese folklore dancing exhibition.

The committee will culminate its activities in a banquet and reception today July 28, to be attended by the athletes and dignitaries of the Arab countries participating in the Olympic Games.

Dr. Sabri Al Farra, speaking on behalf of the Arab-Americans and the success of their efforts, said his committee had accomplished the following goals:

"We have introduced the Arab cultural and heritage of the Arab people to a worldwide public."

"We have demonstrated as Arab-Americans that as a host

group we are unified to act as a host for the Arab athletes, providing them with whatever assistance they need."

"And most importantly, we have introduced the Arab athletes and their accompanying staff to the ethnic feature of the American way of life."

Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles honoured the Arab delegations through the Arab-American Committee with a reception praising the Arab-Americans for their enterprise.

One highlight of the Arabic presentation in the folklore dancing was an exhibition of the Alia Royal Jordanian Folklore Troupe who were enthusiastically received in San Francisco prior to their appearance July 24 in Los Angeles.

To the repeated applause of the Los Angeles audience, the Jordanians in song and dance performed with precision and rhythm while displaying a traditional Jordanian song and dance "Habel Mowadda'a" expressing the solidarity of the villagers.

Dancer Mano Satamian interpreted the feelings of a lone man guarding his tribe's encampment in the "Dance of the Bedouin Guard."

One dance by the troupe included steps from four different villages in southern Jordan in which the bedouin men celebrated a feast praising the courage of their tribes.

The director of the troupe, Claude Safi, praised the American hospitality.

"The Americans are gracious in their hospitality," she said, "and wherever we go they are open-handed and kind and very cooperative."

"In our appearance in San Francisco, our playing time, which ordinarily is one and one half hours, lasted over three and one half hours. We are so happy to be here. Our only disappointment is that we cannot march with our athletes in the Olympic opening ceremony," she said.

Karyl Dickinson Ralles, Jordanian vice counsel, said the visiting Jordanians found the Americans outgoing and friendly, and she said the Jordanians feel very welcome in America.

An added attraction to the Arab cultural scene was the two performances of Mohammad Abdo, billed as a Saudi superstar, with the Saudi folkloric group on July 29 and Aug. 6.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times dance critic, Lewis Segal, described the performance of the Saudi Arabian folkloric troupe, as "fascinating."

He said the troupe gave an outstanding rendition of its rich cultural traditions as its 40 members danced "to the rhythm of tabla and tambourine, the wall of the pipe and the twang of the five-stringed Al Semsemayah."



The folklore troupe of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline (J.T. file photo).

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Karyl Dickinson Ralles, Jordanian vice counsel, said the visiting Jordanians found the Americans outgoing and friendly, and she said the Jordanians feel very welcome in America.

An added attraction to the Arab cultural scene was the two performances of Mohammad Abdo, billed as a Saudi superstar, with the Saudi folkloric group on July 29 and Aug. 6.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Times dance critic, Lewis Segal, described the performance of the Saudi Arabian folkloric troupe, as "fascinating."

He said the troupe gave an outstanding rendition of its rich cultural traditions as its 40 members danced "to the rhythm of tabla and tambourine, the wall of the pipe and the twang of the five-stringed Al Semsemayah."

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Nigeria will not resume ties with Israel

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian Foreign Minister Ibrahim Gambari was quoted as saying Saturday it would be politically and economically unwise for Nigeria to resume diplomatic relations with Israel severed 11 years ago.

Resumption of diplomatic ties with Israel would create "serious and grave problems to the nation's interests," the Tribune newspaper quoted Mr. Gambari as saying in a lecture at the northern Nigerian University of Zaria Friday.

"Our economy is badly in need of capital transfusion at present, attained by a combination of actions including possible adjustments in the production quota allocation to Nigeria within OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries)," Mr. Gambari was quoted as saying.

Political analysts said this meant Nigeria did not wish to antagonise its Arab fellow OPEC members by resuming ties with Israel, especially Saudi Arabia which played a key role in winning a concessional increase in Nigeria's OPEC-assigned oil production quota in Vienna earlier this month.

No policy initiatives expected in Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. and Israeli experts say they see little opportunity for any new policy initiatives in Israel following the inconclusive election there.

"The Israeli election results re-inforce the frozen landscape of the Middle East," former U.S. Under-Secretary of State Joseph Sisco told reporters.

Mr. Sisco, who was closely involved in Middle East affairs during the Ford administration, said: "It's clear the inconclusive results of the election mean it's going to be difficult for anyone to take initiatives, either economic or in the field of foreign affairs."

Both the Likud Bloc and Labour Party failed to win a clear majority in parliamentary elections on July 23. It remains un-

certain what kind of a government eventually will be formed.

Shlomo Avineri, former director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, told a seminar on Friday that whatever kind of government is formed, it would be unable to take initiatives, especially regarding such sensitive issues as the West Bank.

"It will be a very difficult time for any government to do something substantive on foreign policy," he told a panel sponsored by the American Enterprise Institute.

Mr. Avineri, who resigned his government post when the conservative Likud government was formed in 1977, said that a resounding Labour Party victory might have led to a series of peace initiatives towards Arab residents

of the West Bank.

He said a Labour government with a strong electoral mandate might have relinquished control of civil administration functions such as education and health to local Arab authorities as a first step leading to an overall solution.

"Now, that approach seems out," he said.

Earlier this week, other American experts expressed concern that the lack of a clear majority at the polls could result in a prolonged period of paralysis for the Jewish state.

Robert Neumann, a former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Morocco, told Reuters that while he would not predict war, "trends could become very dangerous."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

15:30 Korean
15:40 Cartoons
16:00 Opening Ceremony of the Olympics Games
18:00 Children Programme
18:30 How the West was Won
19:20 Programme Review
19:30 Local Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Olympic Soccer: Egypt vs. Italy
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Varieties
23:45 Olympics: Live transmission from Los Angeles

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Comedy: Bob New Hart
21:00 Towards 2000
21:10 War and Peace
22:00 News in English
22:15 Simon and Simon

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 95.60 KHz. SW
07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show
11:00 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Science Report
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 News Bulletin
16:30 News Summary
17:00 Listeners' Choice
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Jazz Hour
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show
23:00 Evening Show
23:45 Evening Show
24:00 News Headlines

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS
• Exhibition of paintings by Eng. Layla Basmali at the Royal Cultural Centre.
• Exhibition of a collection of paintings by local and international artists at Alia Art Gallery.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre Tel. 44371
British Council Tel. 41520
French Cultural Centre Tel. 37009
Goethe Institute Tel. 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 39777
Hays Arts Centre Tel. 665195
Jabal Amman Youth City Tel. 667181
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 661251
University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qaf'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia International department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:00 Cairo (MS)
06:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:30 Agaba (RJ)
06:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:55 Jeddah (RJ)
07:05 Kuwait (RJ)
07:15 Beirut (RJ)
07:30 Berlin, Larnaca (LF)
07:45 Doha, Riyadh (SV)
08:00 Tripoli, Larnaca (LN)
08:15 Kuwait (RJ)
08:30 Jeddah (SV)
08:45 Larnaca (RJ)
08:55 Baghdad (RJ)
09:00 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
09:15 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
09:30 London, Paris (RJ)
09:45 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
09:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:00 Rome (RJ)
10:10 Athens (RJ)
10:20 Beirut (MEA)
10:30 Athens (OA)
10:45 Cairo (MS)
10:55 Baghdad (RJ)
11:00 London (BA)
11:15 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
11:25 Cairo (RJ)
11:35 Beirut (RJ)
11:45 Kuwait (RJ)
11:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
12:00 Damascus, Rome (AZ)
12:05 Beirut (MEA)
12:15 Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:25 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:35 Larnaca, Berlin (LF)
12:45 Riyadh, Doha (SV)
12:55 Larnaca (RJ)
13:05 Cairo (RJ)
13:15 Larnaca, Tripoli (LN)
13:25 Kuwait (RJ)
13:35 Jeddah (SV)
13:45 Baghdad (IA)
13:55 Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
14:00 Kuwait (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:00 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:15 Cairo (RJ)
06:30 Beirut (RJ)
06:45 Kuwait (RJ)
06:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
07:00 Damascus, Rome (AZ)
07:05 Beirut (MEA)
07:15 Vienna, New York (RJ)
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11:05 Cairo (RJ)
11:15 Larnaca, Tripoli (LN)
11:25 Kuwait (RJ)
11:35 Jeddah (SV)
11:45 Baghdad (IA)
11:55 Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
12:00 Kuwait

Road accident tragedy claims yet another life

AMMAN (J.T.) — One man was killed and another seriously injured as a result of a road accident on the Irbid-Iraq highway involving an oil tanker and a trailer. The collision, which occurred at a point between H-4 and H-5 stations, caused the death of 35-year-old Majed Mifteh from Irbid who was driving towards the Iraqi border and the injury of Humud Hijazi from Ma'an who was driving the trailer in the opposite direction.

The former was killed instantly, the other sustained serious neck injury, and the two vehicles were completely destroyed and burnt. The dead and injured men were carried to Zarqa government hospital as firemen from H-5 and Azraq rushed to the scene to put out the fire. A police spokesman on the scene said that the accident was caused by one of the drivers trying to overtake another car.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad visits 'Obeidat

AMMAN (Petra) — His Highness Prince Mohammad paid a visit Saturday afternoon to the Prime Ministry where he met with Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat.

International public affairs team arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the International Centre for Public Affairs in Brussels arrived here Saturday at the invitation of the National Planning Council (NPC). The delegation comprises 20 leading figures from the centre's members representing economic, commercial and industrial organisations from the private sector in Europe, the U.S.A. and Japan. During their visit they will meet with a number of senior officials and will also tour the Arab Potash Company factories in Ghor Al Safi as well as the city and ruins of Jerash.

Jordan uses more crude oil

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan imported JD 206 million worth of crude oil in 1983 compared with JD 3 million in 1970 according to a spokesman for the energy department at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab quoted the spokesman as saying that the average energy consumption by an individual in Jordan last year was 999 kilograms compared with 286 in 1975. In 1983 Jordan's population was 2.520 million, 78 per cent of which consumed crude oil as an energy source, the spokesman said.

'Oweidat discusses UNDP support

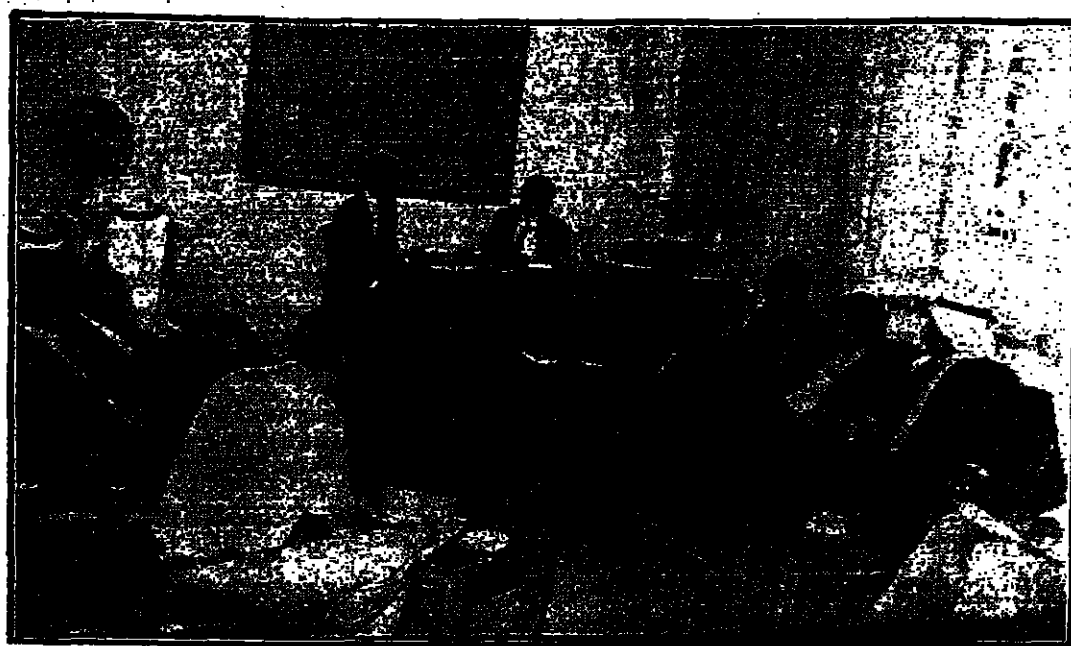
AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah 'Oweidat received at his office Saturday the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan Adnan Ra'ouf. During the meeting they discussed the support of the UNDP for youth projects in the rural areas.

Majali returns from U.S. visit

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali returned to Amman Friday after a visit to the United States. During the visit Dr. Majali delivered a number of lectures on leadership and the improvement of educational process during an international education conference held at Maryland University. Dr. Majali also visited a number of universities and strategic studies centres in the U.S.A.

Companies benefit from Tunisian trade

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry has circulated a list of goods allocated for export to Tunisia and exempted from customs duties. The cabinet earlier approved the second minutes of the meeting of the Jordanian-Tunisian trade committee, signed here in the middle of April, which included the export of 68 various products to the Tunisian market. The chamber asked the owners of Jordanian companies to take advantage of this provision.



Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi (right at desk) praises the role played by local councils in development and social projects during a meeting with Karak Governorate officials Saturday (Petra photo)

Mu'ta University prepares admissions programme for first batch of students

AMMAN (Petra) — Mu'ta University will accept 330 students in various specialisations for the next academic year, the university's vice-president, Dr. Ali Mahafza, has said. Dr. Mahafza added that

all arrangements have been taken to ensure that studies start at the university's permanent site in Mu'ta.

The university, Dr. Mahafza said, will start accepting applications for enrollment through the post offices during the period Aug. 1 through Aug. 10.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Mahafza said that the university had supplied the post offices with special application forms, in addition to literature about the specialisations, enrollment terms and instructions on filling the application forms.

The university, Dr. Mahafza continued, includes two faculties, one for military sciences and the other for police sciences. Following the successful completion of a four year study at the university a graduate is awarded a B.A. degree in applied engineering, natural sciences, administrative sciences, legal sciences or humanitarian sciences.

Students at these two faculties are subject to military discipline and will be provided with free accommodation, uniform, food and drinks during the period of attendance at the university, in addition to a JD 50 as a monthly salary if he is a scholar from the armed forces or the public security. Once a student has graduated from these faculties, he will be eligible for appointment as a second lieutenant, he said.

The university admissions stipulate that a student must be a Jordanian national whose age should not exceed 20 years in the case of civil applicants and 22 for applicants for military studies. Applicants should also meet certain requirements related to conduct and personality, concluded Dr. Mahafza.



Dr. Ali Mahafza

Fizzy drinks prices fixed

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub has fixed the prices of gaseous beverages locally produced in disposable packs as follows:

A 24-bottle box containing bottles with a capacity of 25 centilitres each will be sold at JD 2,100 to shops and retailers. The retail price will be 90 fils for each chilled bottle.

The minister also decided that the beverage company must cease to produce such beverages in glass bottles instead. Such bottles should be of the same capacity and should be sold at the same price as the similar products, according to the minister.

Production of beverages in any new packs is prohibited unless the consent of the authorities concerned is obtained, Mr. Ayyoub said.

Post offices will accept university applications from Aug. 1, Zaben says

AMMAN (Petra) — Post offices around the country will receive applications for students wishing to enrol at Jordanian universities from Aug. 1 and will forward them on to their destinations, Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben announced here Saturday.

He said that the post offices will continue receiving these applications up to Aug. 10th until the end of office hours. Dr. Zaben made the announcement at a meeting of heads of post offices and communications departments in various governorates. He also reviewed arrangements for starting the process of receiving applications.

The post offices will be offering this service for the fourth year running in order to offer facilities to the students and save time and

money, the minister said. This service will continue as long as it is successful, he added.

Over the past four years the post offices have co-ordinated work with other departments in addition to the universities. This year, the minister said, the post offices will process and forward applications from students wishing to continue their studies at Yarmouk University, the University of Jordan and Mu'ta University which has just opened its doors to students for the academic year 1984/85. Dr. Zaben explained.

At the meeting the minister announced details of the procedure to be followed by the post offices in handling applications, issuing receipts and collecting and forwarding the completed applications to the respective universities.



Minister of Communications Mohammad Al Zaben outlines the procedures for post offices to receive university application forms during a meeting Saturday with post office officials (Petra photo)

Kana'an tours Karak region community centres

KARAK (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Abdul Salam Kana'an Saturday paid a visit to Karak Governorate to inspect community centres.

The minister praised the role of community centres in improving the standard of the local community and handling problems confronting the local population. "Co-ordination between the public and private sectors is essential for achieving progress in the community," the minister said. Community centres, he added, should work towards improving the local environment and providing service to the citizens.

The Ministry of Social Development plans to work out schemes for developing community centres in co-operation with various government departments, Mr. Kana'an said.

Later at Ghor Al Mazra'a, the minister met with local officials and representatives of the community centres and expressed his

appreciation for the efforts that the community centre is exerting to improve services.

The Ghor Al Mazra'a community centre director spoke at the meeting and outlined the activities of the centre and its programmes which include training courses in dress-making for women, establishing a nursery for children, and running food centres.

The minister's next stop was Ghor Al Safi, near the Dead Sea, where he met with representatives of the town at the community centre and heard their requests.

These included, among other things, establishing centres for training people in handicraft work.

At the end of the visit the minister distributed diplomas to students who passed vocational training courses financed by the Arab Potash Company in co-operation with the Vocational Training Corporation and the Catholic Relief Service in Jordan.

Salt to receive JD 350,000 for handicrafts zone

Nabulsi praises role of local councils in development plans

SALT (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Nabulsi Saturday paid tribute to the leading role played by the Salt Development Corporation in improving public services and boosting the social and economic standards of the local population.

Mr. Nabulsi, addressing a meeting at Salt Municipality, said that developing the local community is not the sole task of the government, but rather a joint co-operation between citizens and the state.

Speaking with municipal council members, Mr. Nabulsi said that Jordanian municipal and village councils have now passed the stage of providing basic services, and have moved on to a stage of production. The success of a municipal council, he said, depends to a large extent on its performance and its co-operation with the local inhabitants during the course of implementing services' programmes.

Citizens' commitments

Citizens, for their part, should

respect the law and meet their financial commitments by paying their duties and taxes on time, added Mr. Nabulsi.

"Organisation is a continuous, developing process which should be linked with comprehensive development in the towns and villages," the minister said. The ministry, he added, wants municipal councils to abide by previously set plans for constructive projects so that buildings cannot be erected at random.

Handicraft zone

At the meeting Salt Mayor Abdul Razzaq Nsour outlined the achievements of Salt Municipality and its future programmes for improving services.

At the end of this year the municipality will receive JD 21,000

annual income from its projects and this figure is expected to rise to JD 250,000 when the handicraft zone near Salt has been completed, the mayor said. The municipality, he added, plans to buy 100 dunums of land for a cemetery in the near future.

Also at the meeting, Mr. Nabulsi consented to loan the municipality JD 350,000 to help to construct the handicraft zone and to purchase the land allotted for a cemetery.

Accounting course

Later the minister opened a training course for accountants employed by municipal and village councils in Balqa Governorate. The course, organised by the ministry of municipal and rural affairs in co-operation with the Institute of Public Administration aims to train the participants in modern accountancy methods and to make the financial sections at these councils capable of handling work efficiently, the minister said in a speech at the opening session. Without co-operation from the local people, there can be no progress for any project, said Mr. Nabulsi.

Cabinet forms sea-trade delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has agreed to the formation of a Jordanian delegation which will hold discussions with Egyptian Sports Corporation officials on ways of developing and raising the volume of exports and imports between the two countries through the Red Sea.

Jordan's delegation comprises Director General of the Aqaba Ports Corporation Murdi 'Jarmin, acting director-general of the Jordan National Maritime Company, Yasser Al Tal and the ports corporation public relations officer, Mr. Abed Kharino.

Yarmouk office to host academic guidance course

IRBID (Petra) — A seminar on academic guidance and a course on registration regulations in higher education will be held at Yarmouk University Liaison Office on Aug. 4.

The seminar and the course will be organised by the Arab Centre for Higher Education Research, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) in co-operation with Yarmouk University.

The seminar and course supervisor, Dr. Khaled Al Omari, said that their discussions will focus on topics related to academic guidance, registration regulations, the credit hours system and admission procedures as well as the use of computers in this field. Taking part in the several-day seminar and the course are representatives of various Arab universities.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meets Saturday with a delegation representing leading industrialists and businessmen from the United States, Europe and Japan. During the meeting Prince Hassan reviewed Jordan's developments and trade links with the European Community (Petra photo)

Hassan briefs industrialists, businessmen on trade links

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met Saturday at Al Hussein Youth City with a delegation representing leading businessmen and industrialists in Europe, the United States and Japan.

At the meeting Prince Hassan reviewed with the delegation economic and trade links between Jordan and the European Community. He also briefed the guests on national development plans and ways of boosting the industrial sector in Jordan. He discussed means of enhancing co-operation between Jordan and the European Community.

The delegation members were guests at a lunch banquet hosted by Prince Hassan and attended by Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani, Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh, Central Bank Governor Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabulsi and National Planning Council President Omar Abdullah Dakhqan.

Earlier Saturday the delegation conferred with Minister of Labour Tayseer Abdul Jabbar who spoke about the Jordanian labour market and measures being adopted to provide manpower to carry out development projects and the facilities offered to foreign companies in Amman. Dr. Abdul Jabbar also spoke about vocational training and social security programmes for workers.

The delegation later met with Dr. Bassam Al Saket, director general of the Pension Fund who spoke about the activities of the fund in promoting the country's economy. The Pension Fund seeks expertise from the European Community and other nations to help it carry out its projects, Dr. Saket said.

He also briefed the guests on the various projects which the fund plans to carry out and touched on the prospect of acquiring technical help from European countries.

Arab educationalists review school developments, curricula planning

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-week symposium on planning for school curricula and developing existing systems in Arab schools opened at the University of Jordan Saturday.

The symposium, organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in co-operation with the Ministry of Education, is being attended by 24 educationalists from Jordan, Iraq, Qatar, Sudan, Syria and North Yemen as well as representatives from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

They will discuss concepts and philosophies of education, educational policies, curricula for schools, needs of local communities and historical and Islamic concepts used in preparing educational plans.

The participants will be attending specialised workshops on practical applications and exercises on study cases. They will also prepare reports on their work and review research studies on these subjects.

Addressing the opening session, Ministry of Education Secretary-General Abdul Latif Arabiyat, said that the choice of curricula for schools is the main point to be discussed because it assumes prime importance for the

countries represented in the symposium.

Despite the past achievements, the Arab World's educational institutions still look forward to more improvements in scholastic curricula with a view to improving the educational process, Dr. Arabiyat said.

Also addressing the first session was Mr. Taha Al Haj Elias, director of the UNESCO regional office for educational training

which is based in Amman. He said that the symposium is designed to allow educationalists to exchange views on ways to promote the educational process by applying advanced curricula.

It is of prime importance that Arab states reach agreement on a unified concept of school curricula, based on sound and balanced foundations, that would fulfil the aspirations of future generations, Dr. Elias said.



Arab educationalists and specialists in curricula planning for schools discuss the importance of planned teaching programmes for development during a conference at the University of Jordan Saturday (Petra photo)

Alia gallery sells its permanent collection of 115 art works

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — This week sees the last exhibition ever held at the Alia Art Gallery and despite a good turnout at the opening Thursday evening, the atmosphere was quiet and subdued.

The purpose of this last show is to sell off the gallery's now quite

extensive permanent collection comprising some 115 works (oil and watercolour paintings, prints and ceramics) by 26 local and foreign artists.

Although Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has had an art gallery since 1975, it did not really start collecting until it moved to the old "Flying Carpet Club" premises in Shmeisani, in 1980.

From the first exhibition ever held there is a very attractive ceramic piece depicting one of the doorways of the famous "Blue Mosque" in Istanbul by the Italian artist Gabrielle Mandale Kahn.

Contemporary

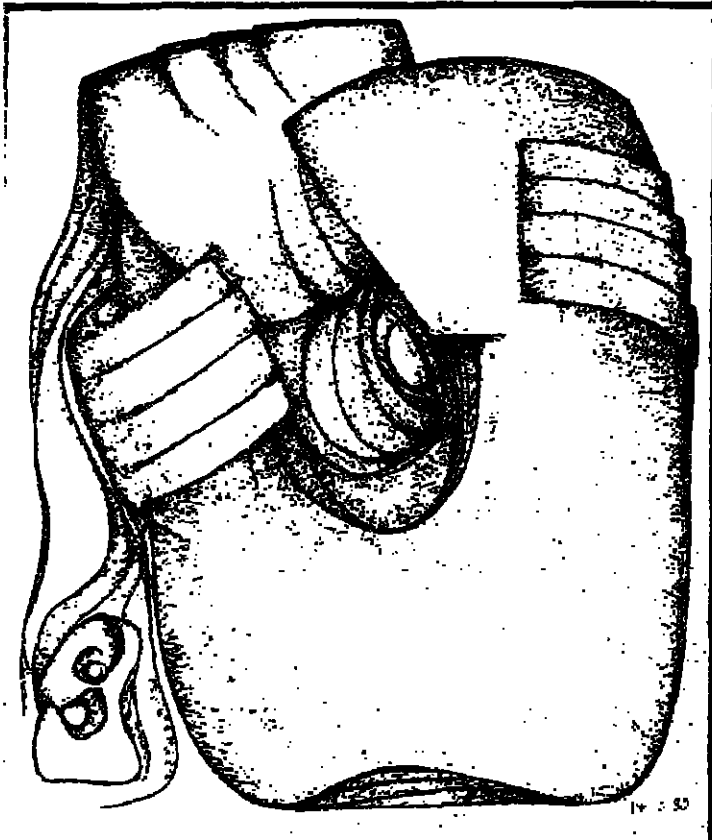
Other good contemporary works by foreign artists include the abstracts by British painter Brian Fielding, two gold ceramic hens and a decorative plate by Finnish born Pauli Partanen and the Oriental flavoured prints by Gaye Patterson.

For those collecting the work of Jordanian and other Arab artists there is also a good selection to choose from. There are the clean lines of Mona Saudi's prints, the bright colours of Fouad Mimi's abstracts, composed of different Islamic elements, the lovely spontaneous watercolours and prints of Emin Al Bacha and the complex calligraphy of Kamal Boulata.

Classical pieces

As well as the modern works of art there are also many classical pieces dating from around the turn of the century. These include some Orientalist paintings by Cyril Hardy, A. Linton, K.M. Reizman and A. Lamplough and some large still life paintings which were purchased from a Spanish castle. Dating from a much earlier period is a very lovely Korean watercolour.

All the works are for sale. People wishing to purchase should submit a written bid on the cards provided. The exhibition runs for one week.



A line drawing of Mona Saudi's sculpture "Stone Flowers" is just one of the many works of art by Jordanian, Arab and foreign artists currently for sale from the Alia Art Gallery's permanent collection.

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New life for civil service

THE ROYAL Commission that His Majesty the King has just appointed to re-appraise and re-organise the civil service does not have an easy task on its hands. Unless the commission's head, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obaidat, and fellow members, are fully aware of the enormity of that task, results will be hard to come by.

This is not to say that any major part of the commission's work will — or can be — accomplished at an early stage. It cannot. But whatever is finally adopted, in the way of study results and recommendations, it will heavily depend on initial planning and the validity of basic preparations.

There are renowned experts and experienced men on the royal committee to help Mr. 'Obaidat do a good job in modernising and improving the lot of our civil service. But none of us should underestimate the problems and obstacles that are likely to be faced by the group.

It might be right and convenient, for instance, to discover that the biggest problem facing civil servants is the low salaries they earn — which is in fact a most likely discovery. What then, given the government's meagre resources, could be done about it? Borrow more money? Or lay off thousands from active service?

It might also be discovered — or calculated — that employees of the public sector are not working enough hours; that there are too many of them; that their efficiency is much below average, if not downright poor; that their qualifications do not permit them to occupy their positions; and so on. How could all these problems, if found there, singularly or together, be solved in the best possible manner and in the shortest period of time?

If, on the other hand, we determined — as we most probably would — that the government has historically been the country's biggest employer, how would we go about switching public and private sector roles overnight, especially at a time when the threat of widespread unemployment looms large over Jordan? Would we want to — or could we — tamper with many years of our own culture, history, religion — if a totally different course of action was needed to modernise our civil service and government institutions?

There will no doubt be some revolutionary ideas on the cards to improve the system beyond recognition: to allow moonlighting; to extend working hours until early evening; to change weekends; to introduce the system of accountability at the expense of tribalism and social niceties; to cancel *wasta*; and to legislate new laws to keep up with the new, desired set-up. Are we prepared for such eventualities? And what groundwork have we done already to be sure we can face them?

By asking all these questions — and there are many more — we mean to say that the task of the new commission is actually so difficult that you cannot differentiate it from the task of looking into the Jordanian society all anew. For it goes without saying that to get our work right, we need to straighten our lives first, and that is not easy for any society.

The royal commission, to be precise, might not succeed in its work if it just wanted to discuss managerial responsibilities, job descriptions and delegation of authority. Some of our problems lie in our roots; so let us not pretend that our civil service needs is only cosmetic improvements.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: The South after Beirut

BEIRUT BECOMES a united city again Saturday as the second stage of the government's security plan goes into effect. The unification of the city is against the wishes of the Israeli enemy, who wanted to see not only Beirut but also the whole of Lebanon divided into mini-states that are weak under Zionist domination.

The unification of the Lebanese capital is a warning to Israel that the South is now on the minds of the Lebanese people, who cannot accept to see part of their country occupied by the enemy who tries to impose Zionism on its people. Once the second stage is implemented, the Karani government is bound to turn its attention to the South and mobilise all efforts to liberate it from occupation. But before the attention is focused on the South we would like to see the government gaining full control over Tripoli in the north to prevent recurrence of the fighting witnessed over the past few days.

All the Lebanese should be united before moves can be made to liberate the South, and the Lebanese people are therefore called on to refrain from committing any action that might disturb peace and security in Beirut or any other area so as to enable the government to deal with the Israeli occupation in the South.

Israel now feels that once the Lebanese are united, they will mobilise their forces to liberate their occupied land and for this reason it has been escalating its oppressive measures against the inhabitants in the South and has been trying to create trouble for the Lebanese government elsewhere to divert its attention from the South.

Al Dustour: With Egypt against Israel

FOLLOWING THE announcement of final results of the Israeli general elections the Arabs face this question: Why should the Israeli society opt for violence and extremism by choosing hawks to parliament instead of doves and moderates, despite the economic crisis they face and the outcome of the invasion of Lebanon?

The Israelis should have opted for removing Begin, Sharon and Shamir from government instead of rewarding them by electing their likes to rule for another term. The Israelis should have opted for peace instead of continued tendency towards aggression and expansion at the expense of Arab lands. The Arabs, nonetheless, should not take long to guess the answer and should realise that the Israelis have never given any consideration to the Arab Nation. For the Israeli electorate, the Arabs meant nothing at all... no threat to their future and no obstacle to Zionist aggressive plans. It is most dismaying for the Arabs to find that they were the real force behind the outcome of the elections without being directly involved in the process. This is true, since the Israelis find in the Arab Nation no real threat to them and are indeed inclined to choose people that can carry out more aggressive plans relying on expansion.

Sawt Al Shaab: Force to confront Israelis

THE DUST has now settled and we all know who is to rule Israel from the Knesset. The picture is as follows: The people and government in Israel are now more inclined towards extremism and aggression against the Arabs. Therefore, there can be no more talk about the prospect of Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and there is no chance of talking about new initiatives for peace. Whatever the Arabs do, and whatever the extent of their disagreements might be, they have to realise that the Israelis are determined to Judaize occupied Arab lands and evict their indigenous population, as best expressed by Meir Kahane and Ariel Sharon. To add to this, the Arabs must realise that once Reagan is re-elected, he will no doubt embark on a plan to re-assess America's full backing for Israel's policies and its continued military superiority over the Arabs.

There is no need for the Arabs to quarrel any more, nor to show disagreement among themselves as their bets on whether the Labour or Likud will win is over now, and the future policies of the Zionist state has become clear to all. There is only one alternative for the Arabs and that is to accept the challenge and to liberate their lands by the force of arms. The Israelis are imposing this challenge on us... on Egypt despite its decision to withdraw its ambassador from Tel Aviv, on Lebanon, which has just closed the Israeli liaison office in Beirut.

Jordan's economic slow-down evident since '82

By Fahed Fanek

EXTERNAL FACTORS causing the economic slow-down in Jordan became evident as of mid 1982. Therefore the full effect of these factors and the response of Jordan's economy can take place as of 1983.

The national accounts for 1983 are now available at current prices. Using the rise in consumer prices of 5 per cent in 1983 as a deflator (in the absence of an official deflator) will give us the following indicators:

— Government consumption expenditure reached JD 379.6 million, a rise in real terms of 4.5 per cent, which means that the government did not adjust its consumption pattern downwards, and continued to expand, perhaps to avoid worsening the economic recession in the short run.

— Private consumption expenditure reached JD 1347.9 million, an increase in constant prices of 5.1 per cent, which suggests that the families sector continued to spend even more on private consumption. The standard of living improved by 1.6 per cent after allowing for inflation at 5 per cent, and natural growth of population at 3.5 per cent which is one of the highest in the world.

— Gross fixed capital formation reached JD 591.5 million, a decrease of only 1 per cent in nominal value and 6 per cent in real terms. This means that the capital and development expenditures continued at a satisfactory level, especially in the construction and housing sectors. Apparently capital expenditure was more responsive to the new circumstances.

An individual is expected to cut down on his capital expenditure in case of anticipated drop in his income. A managed economy may act differently, by putting more squeeze on private consumption expenditure before touching in the investment effort, or dipping into reserves. It is meaningful that the private sector invested JD 397.3 million, an increase of 12.6 per cent, while the government provided JD 194.2 million, a decline of 20.5 per cent.

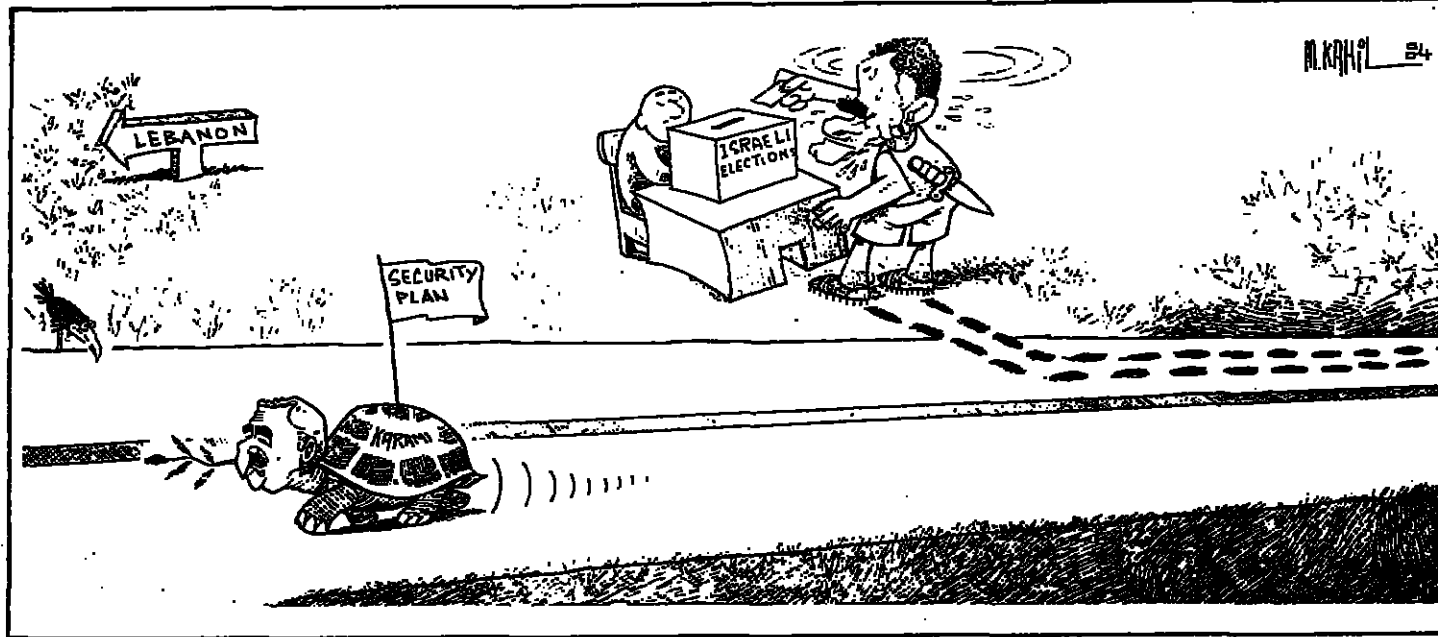
— Exports of goods and services reached JD 639 million, a decrease of 4.3 per cent in nominal terms and 8.9 per cent in constant prices. This setback was due to a sharp drop in transit trade and volume of exports to Iraq, coupled with the failure of potash and fertilizers to reach their set targets due to production bottlenecks and/or to managerial shortcomings.

Imports of goods and services reached JD 1467.7, a decrease in absolute figures of 2.9 per cent only or 7.5 per cent in real terms. This is a healthy reduction even if it was called a "recession" by the commerce sector! The rate of decline in foreign imports was surprisingly low, and much less than expected. No plan was made to inhibit imports or spur exports in 1983. Adjustment in the current account was entirely left to the market forces, which did respond but not to the extent deemed necessary.

Gross domestic product reached JD 1487.3, an increase of 10.7 per cent in current prices or 5.5 per cent in real terms. This is a very healthy growth which demonstrates the resilience of the Jordanian economy, and its ability to absorb shocks and continue pushing forward. It is true that the current five year economic and social development plan aimed at 11 per cent annual real growth, but many observers predicted a drop in the GDP in 1983. It is an achievement in the circumstances that the economy actually grew at this rate.

This fact should cause those who try to assess the performance of the Jordanian economy in the next five years to revise their forecasts upward.

The analysis of the national accounts in 1983 should, relatively, improve the picture of the Jordanian economy outlook, and give a boost to the confidence in the future of the national economy. However, it should not reduce the sense of urgency in the drive for economic adjustments called for by the substantial reduction in the country's receipts of foreign exchange by way of Arab financial support.



Arabs, Europeans talking again?

The European Community, nervous about oil supplies from the war-torn Gulf, is seeking to revive a stalled dialogue with the Arab nations. Economic and cultural contacts could lead the way.

By Shada Islam

BRUSSELS — Fears that the Gulf war could plunge the European Community into an oil crisis like that of the early 1970s have prompted EC policy-makers to seek a revival of the region's long-dormant links with the Arab World.

The last few months have been marked by increased contacts between Community officials at all levels and their counterparts in Arab capitals. Attempts are being made to instil new life and vigour into the 10-year-old Euro-Arab dialogue, long considered a symbol of special historical and cultural ties.

Launched in the cold winter of 1973, when Europe first realised how dependent it was on Arab oil, the dialogue was designed to reinforce political and economic links between the two regions. EC leaders made it clear the contacts would be used to ensure that Europe never had to face an oil shortage again.

For the Arabs, the dialogue provided a long-awaited opportunity to talk politics with Europe. There were hopes that the community could be persuaded to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In the end, neither side got what it wanted. The Arab League refused to consider any preferential

treatment for the sale of Arab oil to its European clients. The EC also veered away from giving any formal recognition to the PLO — and, in fact, refused to talk to the organisation unless it was "assimilated" in a larger Arab delegation.

Jos Loeff, deputy director-general for external relations at the EC Commission in Brussels, told a Euro-Arab seminar in Belgium recently that the dialogue had been "subject to the vagaries of political crisis... the pace of discussions has fluctuated wildly. Hopes were high, grandiose plans were developed and regrettably, except in a limited number of instances, produced only limited results."

Internal turmoil within the Arab ranks has been partly responsible. Egypt's exclusion from the Arab League, for instance, following the signature of the Camp David peace accords, sent the Euro-Arab dialogue to sleep for at least two years.

More recently, dissension within the PLO ranks has prevented the Arab League from making any new overtures to the European Community.

During this period Europe, with its own problems, has tended to maintain a low profile in the Middle East. Individual EC states — France, Italy and Britain — sent peacekeeping troops into Lebanon last year, but the community

as such has made no attempt to try to stop the Arab-Israeli war.

Arab experts in Brussels maintain that the EC "continues to live in the shadow of Washington as far as Middle East policies are concerned." European Commission Middle East experts recognise that ever since they made their statement on including the PLO in any Middle East peace talks at an EC summit in Venice in June 1980, European leaders have been careful not to "interfere" in American Administration policies.

Greece and France have tried to step up EC links with the PLO — only to be shot down by more "prudent" and pro-American officials in Bonn, London and the Hague. "There is unlikely to be a European peace initiative — either this year or the next," predicts an EC official.

But this does not seem to have stopped Arab capitals from trying to persuade the 10 EC states to assume a more active role in Middle East politics.

European sources point out that the Arabs renewed interest in reviving ties with the EC is probably linked to their disappointment with American policies in the region.

"By practically withdrawing from the Middle East, the Americans have created a vacuum which the Arabs fear could be filled by the Soviet Union," said an EC official. He added that the Arabs were pressing Europe to take "some sort of initiative" but that, for the moment at least, "n-

one of the EC countries appears interested."

There is interest, however, in breathing new life into the economic aspects of the Euro-Arab dialogue, considered neutral and innocuous enough not to worry either the Americans or the Israelis. "We are now seeing a more realistic assessment of what our dialogue is about," said Jos Loeff. Commission officials point out that a number of the dialogue's moribund committees have now been revived and will soon begin working on such issues as trade, investments and industrial co-operation.

Trade between the two regions is booming. Jos Loeff pointed out that "European imports from the Arab world doubled during the period 1978 to 1982, while Europe's exports went up by 160 per cent."

Although very few figures are available, EC officials stress that investment links between the two regions have "developed substantially." There has also been a growth in joint actions between the Community and various Arab aid funds in the Third World.

Jos Loeff hopes that the revived dialogue will also help Europeans to "become more aware of the Arab-Islamic civilisation."

The social and cultural chapter of the dialogue — aimed at enlarging cultural exchanges between the two regions — is expected to receive top priority under the revived Euro-Arab dialogue — Compass.

Madrid uses carrot and stick on ETA

The government of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez is using a mixture of persuasion, police crackdown and international collaboration to deal with Eta, the armed Basque separatist organisation. David White reports on the success of the campaign so far.

MADRID — Rarely have captives been received with such triumph as the two men now facing trial in Madrid as members of Euzkadi Ta Askatasuna (Eta), the armed Basque separatist organisation. Arrested nine months ago near Antwerp with a car-load of recently acquired ammunition, they were escorted in handcuffs off an official Belgian jet in Madrid earlier this month (July). They are the first alleged terrorists that Spain has succeeded in extraditing from another country since the beginning of the Basque conflict.

The extradition is being presented as a psychological breakthrough in the Socialist government's no-hiding-place campaign against Eta. The authorities can now claim to have made significant headway on three fronts — the securing of international collaboration, a police crackdown on Eta commands within Spain, and moves to persuade Eta members to cross over and resume a normal legal existence. The stick and the carrot are being applied at the same time.

The undermining of Eta's morale has become the subject of a constant barrage of comment, particularly on state-owned radio. The organisation is portrayed as being divided and cornered, and some newspapers are already talking of the "final defeat" of Eta and of an anticipated violent riposte as its "swansong".

For Mr. Felipe Gonzalez, the prime minister, success in dealing with Eta would be a crucial achievement. Without the capacity to contain Eta violence, which reached its peak not under General Franco but in 1980, five years after his death, the credentials of democratic rule will always be open to challenge.

After intensive lobbying by Mr. Gonzalez, Spain has begun to gain acceptance for its argument that Eta members abroad should no longer be able to claim protection from political persecution, but should be treated as common criminals. This change is demonstrated not only in Belgium's decision to concede extradition — which so far remains as isolated case — but also in France's agreement to have Interpol channels used in tracking down Eta gunmen.

In France the Mitterrand government, while co-operating much more in recent months, has continued to refuse extradition. This is partly out of principle, partly out of fear of reaction by young French Basques, among whom runs a strong current of tribal solidarity. This came to the surface five years ago, under the administration of President Giscard d'Estaing when the French authorities quietly handed over seven terrorist suspects at the border — a gesture never repeated.

However, attention will now focus on Paris's response to forthcoming extradition proceedings against six Spanish Basques in Pau. Since January, France has been taking a compromise line by deporting key Basque militants to third countries. A total of 23 have so far been sent to Panama, Cuba and Venezuela and further expulsions are expected. Meanwhile, as has been done on several previous occasions, other known activists have been moved away from the border department of Pyrenees-Atlantiques.

There, the atmosphere among the exiled Spanish Basque community has changed radically as a result of a resurgence of attacks by self-proclaimed anti-terrorists. The murky GAL (anti-terrorist liberation groups) is held responsible for eight murders in the French "sanctuary" since it first announced its existence late last year.

In Spain, tough measures against terrorism have coincided with a no-holds-barred police off-

ensive. In March four alleged members of the Autonomous Anti-Capitalist Commandos — a separatist splinter group — were gunned down in a rubber dinghy at Paisajes. In June two men were killed when police stormed a hide-out flat in Hernani.

The combined result of all this is that a number of key Eta figures are either in custody or well away from the danger zone, that the organisation has been suffering an increased casualty rate (out of 35 deaths in the Basque conflict so far this year, a dozen have been supposed terrorists), and that its cross-border arms and financial operations have been made more difficult.

At the same time, discreet negotiations have been going on for the "reinsertion" of repentant Eta members into Spanish society — perhaps the most potent means of all of sapping Eta's spirit. Forty-three Eta prisoners in Spanish jails have jointly applied for pardons, from which condemned killers are formally excluded. The government has put two telephone numbers and two post boxes at the disposal of militants in France so that they can apply for a safe-conduct.

Letters purportedly intercepted between the Eta command and an operative unit have been used to demonstrate a "serious internal crisis," although their authenticity is far from certain.

French measures have brought reprisals south of the border, mainly against French cars and lorries, and pro-Eta protests are a regular sequel to police swoops, which have also drawn criticism from some Basque church leaders.

But the demonstrations are smaller than they once were, more local, and more centred on fall-back symbols such as the Basque flag rather than on specific issues. The authorities appear to have taken a calculated gamble on signs that Eta, which started out against Franco 25 years ago, is "disconnecting" from the Basque population, as Spain moves further into democracy under an apparently stable Socialist government.

The Eta camp, possibly feeling its pull on popular sentiment slipping away, has been trying to rally around an increasingly Marxist-Leninist stance.

Nevertheless, Eta's political allies in Herri Batasuna (Popular Unity) remain firmly entrenched, even in sectors of the "immigrant" non-Basque working class in the region. The party, which refuses to sit in either the Basque or the Spanish Parliament, has a solid bedrock of 150,000 votes, rallying as well as Eta supporters a fringe Left vote opposed to the current institutions. It has never polled fewer than one in eight votes in elections it has fought in the Basque country.

Basque nationalist parties of all hues, which have in common a desire for greater autonomy, though to different degrees, hold a solid combined majority. Basque nationalism, from right to left, is the most potent ingredient in the region's politics, increasingly so since Spain started having elections. The strength of nationalism has been confirmed in the four years during which it has had an autonomous government.

The ruling Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) joins in the reservations about recent police actions. It is disturbed about the emphasis given to security measures in the absence of political negotiations. This, it fears, may only bring further polarisation and serve as a pretext for extremism.

Thus while the Madrid government believes it may be within reach of subduing Eta, or at least reducing it to a hard core of a few dozen, prospects for full reconciliation in the Basque country are still a long way off. Financial Times news feature.

Handwritten signature: *فهد فنعك*

Politics never far removed from sporting contests

By John Rogers
Reuter

LONDON — The Los Angeles Olympic Games already conform to an unwritten rule established by age-old practice: You cannot separate sport and politics.

If war is one extension of international politics, sporting contests are often viewed by governments as another.

Although the ancient Greeks buried disputes during the Olympics, politics intruded even then. Alexander the Great, before launching far-flung conquests, used the Olympiad of 324 B.C. to announce that all Greeks were united behind his shield.

This century, international sports have been dogged by East-West tensions — as shown by this year's Soviet-led boycott of the Los Angeles Olympics, opening next Saturday — as well as by racial politics and occasional bursts of violence.

Authorities deplore the en-

roachment of politics on sport as inevitable but differ over its long-term impact.

International Olympic Committee President Lord Killanin warned 10 years ago that the end result of using sport for political purposes would be a "retreat into barbarism".

But his successor, Juan Antonio Samaranch, says: "There have always been political problems in the games and the Olympic Movement has always emerged strengthened and resolved to continue."

The Soviet Union and 13 allies — all except Romania — have quit the Los Angeles Games because of stated concern over their athletes' security and possible violations of the Olympic Charter. But U.S. and Olympic officials cite other reasons.

Mr. Samaranch says Moscow would not have considered boycotting the games if the United States had not led a walkout from the 1980 Moscow Olympics in

protest against Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

President Reagan has cited fear of defections by athletes as a reason for the Soviet bloc's decision to stay away.

South Africa's apartheid policies have caused its isolation from sporting competition with most other countries for two decades, broken only by occasional tours by rebel teams defying their own governments to play in the white-ruled republic.

A New Zealand rugby tour of South Africa prompted an English boycott of the 1976 Montreal Olympics in protest against New Zealand's participation.

But fears of another African boycott this year over an English rugby tour of South Africa have fizzled out and Africa is mounting its biggest Olympic challenge for 12 years.

The latest row in a long catalogue stemming from South Africa's racial policies was over Lon-

don's swift granting of British nationality to a record-breaking South African runner, Zola Budd, enabling her to run for Britain in Los Angeles.

Intense nationalism at sporting contests has often led to ugly incidents, such as booing by crowds of an opponent's anthem, fights between fans and violence by flag-waving British soccer hooligans in European cities this year.

Honduras and El Salvador fought a four-day "football war" in 1969 when underlying political disputes were ignited by the outcome of a world cup soccer series.

Defections by athletes from socialist countries to the West have also caused friction. After the United States gave Chinese tennis star Hu Na asylum last year, Peking boycotted 10 international sports events in the United States. But China will be competing in the Olympics this year for the first time since 1952.

China quit the 1956 games in

Melbourne because of Taiwan's presence and left the Olympic Movement in 1958. It rejoined in 1979 under a compromise which forced Taiwan to change its flag and anthem, but took part in the boycott of the Moscow Games.

Nationalistic fervour is highlighted by big international sporting extravaganzas, and some officials would like to exclude the partisan, flag-waving aspect — if they knew how.

Militant nationalism reached its height at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Adolf Hitler hoped the games would demonstrate his theory of Aryan superiority, but was confounded by black American athlete Jesse Owens who won four gold medals.

Political withdrawals from the Olympics started in earnest in 1956 when Egypt, Iraq and Lebanon pulled out in protest against an Anglo-French-Israeli invasion of the Suez Canal.

The Netherlands, Spain and

Switzerland stayed away because of the Soviet invasion of Hungary. But there was some good political news at the Melbourne Games — East and West Germany fielded a joint team, as they did until 1968.

Politics or violence have grabbed headlines at every Olympiad since the 1968 games in Mexico City.

Mexican troops killed scores of anti-government rioters 10 days before the games started. Black American athletes angered U.S. and Olympic officials by giving clenched-fist "Black Power" salutes from the victory podium.

This year, Los Angeles police are mounting a major security operation against possible violence.

Armenian guerrilla groups, waging a murder campaign to avenge killings of Armenians in Turkey in 1915, have threatened to attack governments, organisations and companies which help the Turkish team.

12,000 killed on French roads every year

By Clare Hargreaves
Reuter

PARIS — Some 500 French people are murdered each year. But a staggering 12,000 are killed on the road, giving France one of the highest road death rates in Europe.

While over 10 million drivers, many used only to driving in major towns and cities, takes to the roads as the annual French holiday season gets under way, the government is stepping up its efforts to stall the tragically routine summer massacres.

Few forget a tragic coach crash in July 1982 near Beaune, 280 kilometres southeast of Paris, which killed 53 people, 44 of them children from the same town, and joined the government into tightening up road safety regulations.

The appalling number of road deaths — 260,000 between 1962 and 1982 — led former Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy to say the toll in human lives was "comparable to that caused by a war."

And although the number of deaths fell below 12,000 last year for the first time in 20 years — despite an increase in traffic of 40 per cent — figures for the first few months of 1984 showed a depressing upturn and suggest the battle to urge motorists to be more careful still has a long way to go.

July and August are the worst months of the year, accounting for around 20 per cent of annual deaths, although the government hopes that recent attempts to persuade the French to stagger their holidays may pay off.

Signs placed along the roads, such as "control yourself before you're controlled" "let yourself go, but not on the road" and "I don't play with fire" (a play on the French word for traffic lights), remind drivers to forego that second glass of wine and watch the speedometer.

"Alcohol is at the root of 40 per cent of deaths on the road each year — that's 5,000 deaths," a senior government official told Reuters.

Alcohol and speeding are the leading causes of road deaths in France, followed by neglect of the highway code, police traffic experts say. Only seven per cent of accidents are due to mechanical faults and as little as two to weather conditions and deficient road surfaces.

Although most accidents occur in cities, most deaths happen on minor roads. According to Ministry of Transport figures, in 1982 only four per cent of deaths were on motorways, compared to 42 per cent on minor roads and 27 on major roads.

Nearly three times as many men as women were killed.

Although a tightening of road safety rules over the last 10 years has helped cut the number of deaths, basic attitudes may have to change before the figure falls significantly.

"It's a question of culture, and that takes a long, long time to change," the official admitted.

As one Frenchman put it, French drivers see being overtaken as a sin, pedestrians seem to have no rights at all and red lights are a challenge rather than an order to stop.

A survey carried out by the National Organisation of Road Safety (ONSER) in 1981, quoted in the weekly Le Point magazine this month, revealed that one in five drivers skip the red lights on occasion and one in 16 do so.

Accidents caused by a failure to observe red lights account for 10 per cent of the annual total, the magazine said.

"The few drivers who stop at the red lights are immediately hooted at by the cars behind," it observed.

From a survey in Rennes, Brittany, ONSER described the typical light-jumper as a man between 21 and 45, who considers himself a good driver and justifies his action as an attempt to unblock a junction, for example. But he sees other drivers who jump the lights as "criminals".

Asked whether measures to clamp down on law-breakers were proving effective, the government official said: "We'd need a policeman behind every car to eliminate the problem."

But one police sergeant defended drivers: "There are too many traffic lights — continuous arrests would drive everybody insane. Especially as it is the mayor who decides to install lights and his decision is often based on the wishes of the people living along the roads and not of the drivers."

France's blackest year on the roads was 1972, when over 274,000 accidents left 16,500 people dead.

Omar Sharif drawn to London theatre

By Mustafa Genoub

JEDDAH — His face is unmistakably handsome and instantly recognisable. In the past it used to be racehorses, casinos and bridge — juxtapositioned between making films as brilliant as Lawrence of Arabia, Dr. Zhivago and The Horsemen and as mediocre as Genghis Khan and Che. Today after a lull, Egyptian heartthrob Omar Sharif is acting again — this time on the stage in London's West End in Terence Rattigan's *The Sleeping Prince*.

"I was not satisfied with my work in films. I wanted to arouse in myself some passion for my work. The theater gives you that kind of passion. I came back to the stage after 25 years to prove to myself." The 51-year-old Sharif's personal crusade to inject some happiness into his life has made him wiser and more philosophical about life. "I have no ambition. I am not looking for anything in public. I am not looking for any more fame. I just want to be happy, and to be happy I need to work. And to work satisfactorily, I need to work for myself and not for anybody else."

The birth of his first grandson, Omar, a few months ago is an added tonic. "It's a wonderful feeling. I want to go to see him in Montreal, Canada, where my son lives."

Sitting in his elegant apartment in London's Mayfair, Omar Sharif, perhaps a trifle but more urgent nowadays, started to talk about his new-found passion, his life and his future. He is adamant that he has no girl-friend, no plans for marriage and does not like going out except for the occasional meal after theater.

Sharif intends to do a lot of stage work for the time being. He is still interested in making films but only good ones. "I am not interested in just anything that comes along. A good film is always challenging, but it is very difficult to find good films nowadays and there are many fine actors vying for a few good parts."

The fact that he is Arab and a foreigner, despite his air of exoticism, can be more of a handicap than an advantage. "I'm a foreigner and in order to be cast in a film, I must be cast as such. Usu-

ally it's a film of adventure and it is only the second-rate directors that make these nowadays."

"In the sixties there was a cultural revolution in the world after Vietnam. The cinema industry changed a lot. All the major studios changed. Young people took over and they wanted to describe the problems of their societies. The good films being made are about Vietnam, New York, the working classes and about whatever problems there are. And you don't need Omar Sharif in these."

With melting brown eyes and a disarming charm, Sharif regrets not having played the leading roles of Omar Mokhtar, the Libyan revolutionary leader, against the Italian colonialists, in *Lion of the Desert* and *Hamza*, the Prophet's uncle, in *The Message*. Both roles incidentally went to Anthony Quinn.

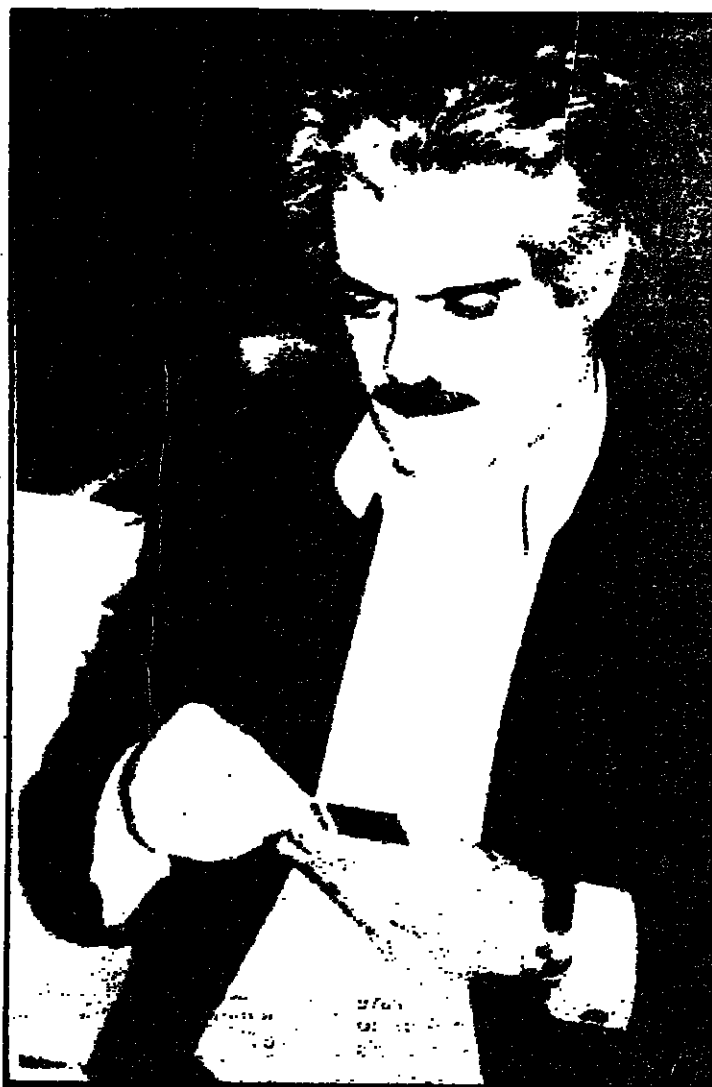
Egypt, although he has no family there, only friends, will always be home. But he could never live there forever. He lives wherever his work takes him and he likes to go back to Egypt whenever he can. The Egyptian actor has become too accustomed to the cultural offerings of the West — opera, theatre, concerts and music, all of which has become part of his acquired culture. Ideally, he confesses, he would like to have a home in Egypt, but he can't afford it.

"Yes, I have no money. I've spent all the money that I've earned. I never invested any. I'm not rich. It's true."

His love for his country is fervent. He has just finished making a film in Egypt which will be released soon.

He made it as a gift to help Egyptian cinema. Local films have been very poor and commercial. Sharif believes that one can educate an audience to like something good and clean. "The comedy has become very vulgar — with a lot of underlining. This is not good for us nor for our cinema. I made the film to show what the Egyptian cinema can be capable of doing."

Similarly, he senses a revival in Egyptian theatre, although the film industry is still lacking in good quality productions. But he is hopeful because of the young actors coming up through the drama academies. Egypt of course is the



Omar Sharif

oldest film-producing country in the Middle East with many actors and major studios. However, the lack of a Pan-Arab literature at the moment and young Arab writers may hamper progress. Sharif would like to help Arab theatre and Arab youngsters when he retires one day.

"We are in a depression in our culture. I think it's not due to the new-found affluence. I think the whole world is in a cultural depression."

He has great admiration for the British film industry which, he says, is never really dead. It has its ups and downs but Britain has not only the best actors in the world but also an enormous amount of talent. One of his favourite British actresses is Vanessa Redgrave, whom he is very fond of. She is a very close friend and they are going to do a play together in the near future.

Sharif recently opened a bazaar

in London's East End organised by Ms. Redgrave in aid of deprived kids. He declines to comment however, on Ms. Redgrave's activities in the Workers' Revolutionary Party, and defends her right to be involved in any political causes she is dedicated to such as her support of the Palestinians.

"People like Vanessa are not content to be only actors. They are also dedicated to political causes. There is no reason why they should not take advantage of the fact that they are actors. Ronald Reagan does. People have tried to stop her work (it's their right too), people who are Zionists and who don't like her work. Everyone has his cause to defend. In a way Vanessa needs opposition to her work to keep her dedication going. I myself have no dedication to politics. I am not a socialist. I'm dedicated to humanitarianism — to building schools and hospitals."

— Arab News

Randa Habib's Corner

Keep us properly informed

EARTHQUAKE OR not an earthquake — that was the question and still is. On Saturday July 21, around 7:00 a.m. sleeping Jordanians were startled in their beds while those who were awake were shaken by "something that made windows and doors shatter." Nobody was really worried and the possibility of it being an earthquake did not particularly cross our minds. A friend told me that for a moment she thought her husband was nervous that morning and was slamming, while others believed it was a strong wind or even a supersonic bang.

But on Sunday, an earthquake seismologist at the Geology Department of the University of Jordan revealed that at 7:11 Saturday morning an earthquake which registered 1.3 on the Richter Scale occurred in Amman followed by another one registering 0.9 on the same scale a few seconds later.

The epicentres of the two tremors were located at 30 kilometres away from the University of Jordan, according to researchers at the University. Things would have remained the same if it wasn't for another report from another seismologist at the Natural Resources Authority, the day after, denying the earthquake reports. No earthquake but only unidentified airplanes breaking the sound barrier, said the NRA official who spoke to the press. So, just a vulgar supersonic bang — nothing to be alarmed about.

Out!... Everybody take a deep breath, we are protected from earth's caprice and its tremor.

Only 24 hours later, surprise... the University of Jordan reassured Jordanians that the earth Saturday morning was really shaking from an earthquake.

Now, how can it be that we have an announcement followed by a denial then by a confirmation? This is ridiculous.

Let us be reasonable, for each event there is a responsible department in the country, and this department alone carries the responsibility of informing us citizens of what is going on, otherwise we will be caught in a dilemma of not knowing what is happening because of the interference of departments not directly responsible.

The result of such chaos is that in cases of similar events, people will not take it seriously and departments will lose their credibility. Would somebody please solve this one for us?

High fashion in Italy is a way of life

By Daniela Petroff
Associated Press

ROME — More than a way of dressing, high fashion here is a way of life — a world filled with big names, posh parties and gorgeous clothes. The week of Italian high fashion showings for this year's fall-winter collection, which ended in Rome on Friday, was no exception.

The guest list of those who attended the 13 exclusive shows presenting next winter's collections, included film stars Ben Gazzara and Gina Lollobrigida, writer Alberto Moravia, and film director Lina Wertmüller.

At least two parties were held each day, highlighted by a reception at the palace of Italian President Sandro Pertini and a mid-night garden party in honour of Valentino hosted by U.S. Ambassador Maxwell Rabb and his wife Ruth.

A nighttime fur show, staged for the public on Rome's famous tourist spot, the Spanish steps, offered a close-up of the fashion world to those who usually see it only through the glossy pages of a fashion magazine.

Feminine and sophisticated is the look preferred by the thirteen designers, including Valentino, Lancetti, Laug, Mila Schoen and Galitzine. Next trend suits for daytime, simple velvet black dresses for the cocktail hour, and beaded chiffon gowns for the night, are the basic components of the high fashion wardrobe as seen during four days of showing here. Except for a few man-tailored pant suits, the androgynous look

launched last March in Milan by the Italian ready-to-wear designers was not included in the Rome collections. But hairstyles remained short-cropped and boyish.

Shoulders this fall will be accentuated, waists tight, and hips well girded in slim skirts ending at the knee. Three-piece matching outfits made up of short coat, jacket and skirt offer between-season chic.

High-fashion women who are driven from one spot to the next may not mind the high heels proposed by the designers — even for daytime. She may also choose to smother herself in over-sized gold necklaces, bracelets and earrings.

The less ostentatious, however, could opt for the new stitched-on jewelry — a myriad of rhinestones and beads made to resemble opulent necklaces and bracelets and sewn onto velvet and chiffon evening gowns.

This week's high fashion shows had special significance for the uncontented king of the trade, Valentino. He celebrated 25 years as a high fashion designer, having opened his first studio on the stylish Via Condotti in July 1959.

Valentino feted the occasion with a gala open-air presentation of his new all-winter collection in Piazza Mignanelli near the Spanish steps, and the sit-down dinner at the U.S. ambassador's residence.

Valentino has a lot to celebrate. His label on couture, ready-to-wear, plus a bevy of items ranging from household items to bathroom tiles, bring in \$180 million a year.

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Day of firsts starts Olympics

LOS ANGELES (R) — A day of 'firsts' is in store for the opening day of Los Angeles Olympic competition when two new women's events will be contested and China may well clinch its first gold medal.

Nine golds in all are up for grabs and flyweight weightlifter Zeng Guoqiang will go down in history if he is among the winners.

In the absence of the East Europeans who are boycotting the games, the 19-year-old Chinese strongman must overcome Japanese veteran Kazushito Manabe to realise his dream.

Women cyclists in the 70-km road race and markswomen in the sport pistol will also be vying for places in the Olympic record books.

Other finals on the opening day are the men's cycling road race,

the men's free pistol, the women's 100 metres freestyle and 400 individual medley and the men's 100 breaststroke and 200 freestyle.

Cycling is the only new sport for women here. But events in sports they already contest account for another 12 Olympic additions, including the marathon, heptathlon, 3,000 metres, rhythmic gymnastics and synchronised swimming.

The markswomen, who have competed alongside the men in past Olympics, now have three events to themselves — the sport pistol, the standard rifle and the

air rifle.

The boycott of the games by the Soviet Union and 14 other countries has devalued some of medals.

East Europeans, who took the first six places in last year's World Championships, would have dominated the men's road race, which is now wide open. Two Americans, Rebecca Twigg and Connie Carpenter, are favourites in the women's.

Carpenter, a former speedskater who competed in the 1972 winter Olympics in Sapporo, is current individual pursuit world champion but has never won the world road race title.

The Honolulu-born Twigg was world road race runner-up last year to Marianne Berglund of Sweden, another medals candidate.

Sport pistol favourite, in the absence of the excellent Russian markswomen, is European champion Maria Macovei of Romania, the only Warsaw Pact country attending the games.

The men's free pistol gold is most likely to go to Swedish businessman Ragnar Skanakar, who at 50 is competing in his fourth Olympics. He won the title in Munich in 1972.

The women's swim events may be deprived of the storming finishes of the East Germans, but former World Champion Tracy

Caulkins and fellow-American Nancy Hogshead more than deserve the chance of winning their first Olympic golds in the 100 metres freestyle and the 400 individual medley.

The U.S. men's team should produce one of the best swimming clashes of the games when Steve Lundquist and John Moffet line up in the 100 metres breaststroke. The last time they met Moffet broke Lundquist's world record, touching home only three-hundredths of a second in front.

Jordanians win medal at Paralympics

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian handicapped sportsman Yusuf Kahlil Salem won a silver medal in shot put competition at the World Wheelchair Games (Paralympics) held in England.

Earlier Maha Al Barghouti also from Jordan won a silver medal in shot put (2.4 metres) and Aida Al Shishani won the 200-metre track and field race, breaking her own record in Amman and winning a bronze medal. Members of the national team of handicapped persons are reported all in good health and are taking part in regular training.

Teenoso makes amends with Piggott at Ascot

ASCOT, England (R) — Teenoso, the brilliant colt who gave Lester Piggott a bloody face last time out, repayed the English champion jockey in full Saturday with a superb victory in the \$303,740 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot.

The four-year-old colt, winner of the 1983 English Derby, gave Piggott his seventh win in this race, one of the top events on the European calendar, with a two and a half length victory over Sadler's Wells with Tolomeo, winner of last year's Arlington Million, another one and a half lengths away third.

In his last appearance, in the Grand Prix de Saint-Claude in France, Teenoso caught Piggott in the eye in the pre-race parade. But the 48-year-old veteran jockey went on to win with blood streaming down his face.

If anything, Piggott and Teenoso were even more impressive Saturday against a top class international field and were worthy winners of the \$186,500 first prize.

Teenoso, who was never out the first two, led for the first two furlongs followed by Sadler's Wells and Sun Princess, winner of the 1983 Oaks and St. Ledger, but then gave way to the race pacemaker, his honour.

But when his honour slackened four furlongs from home, Piggott, riding in this event for the 28th time, had no hesitation in letting Teenoso take up the pace again.

As they turned into the straight they had a length and a half lead from Sun Princess and Sadler's Wells with French trained Dahar and the favourite Time Charter trying desperately to get on terms.

But Teenoso galloped on resolutely and Sadler's Wells and Tolomeo, who mounted a late challenge, were never able to offer a serious challenge.

The winner will probably have one preparatory race before going for the Prix de l'Arch de Triomphe at Longchamp in October.

Teenoso's trainer Geoffrey Wragg said: "I just told Lester to make sure he was up there with the leaders all the time but I left the final tactics to him."

Time Charter, last year's winner, stayed on to finish fourth followed by Sun Princess.

French Derby winner Darshaan, owned by the Aga Khan and ridden by Walter Swinburn, showed well early on but faded near the end. None of the other French challengers looked like upsetting Teenoso but it was a particularly disappointing race for Esprit du Nord who was controversially withdrawn at the start.



BADIAH GALLOPS TO VICTORY: The horse "Badiah" won Friday's horse-race held at Al Taneih horse racing track. The horse, owned by Princess Badiah, daughter of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, won the race in the fifth round. Prince Hassan handed Princess Badiah the cup for the winning horse towards the end of the race which was attended by Princess Sayrah and her daughters and a large group of spectators. Prince Hassan arrived at the racing ground in the second round was met by Sharif Jamil Ibn Nasser, Sharif Ghazi, Minister of Communications Mohammad Adnan Al Zaben and owners of Arab horses taking part in the race. He discussed with the party affairs related to horses and equestrian activities.

Tunisian youth chief arrives in Amman Monday

TUNESIA (Petra) — The assistant chairman of the International Year of Youth in Tunisia, Mohammad Al Baroni is due here Monday on a week-long visit to Jordan. Mr. A. Baroni said that the visit will culminate in many fields for co-operation to serve the youth of Jordan and Tunisia among which will be Jordan's participation in the Tunisian youth festival scheduled to be held on October 12.

He also paid tribute to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's interest in youth sector adding that an annual training programme for the various youth activities, in which Jordanian and Tunisian youth will take part, will be drawn during the visit.

Gymnastics festival to be held at Yarmouk University

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Gymnastics Federation will organise a festival at Yarmouk University on Aug. 23rd. Members of the national team in Irbid and Amman will take part in these activities. Gymnasts will be employing new equipment just installed in the gymnasium at the university. These include a beam for women exercises, isometric bars for men as well as floor exercises and trampoline. A special performance by young gymnasts from various centres will also be displayed, according to Sahar Abu Anzeh, member of the Jordanian Federation.

Lloyd defeats Shriver, claims Australian indoor title

SYDNEY (R) — Chris Evert-Lloyd recovered from an early slump to take the \$200,000 Australian Women's Indoor Tennis Championship with a 7-5, 6-2 win against defending champion Pam Shriver here Saturday.

Lloyd, who won the title in 1981, struggled in the first set but easily overcame a tiring Shriver in the second to earn the \$75,000 first prize. Shriver won \$40,000.

"I was surprised how tired Pam became especially in the second set," said Lloyd. "She had some tough matches this week whereas I had it easy, and when she started so strongly I told myself to hang in there."

Shriver led 3-0 after breaking Lloyd's service but the former Wimbledon champion quickly broke back to level at 3-3.

Shriver, who was having trouble with her approach shots, was down 15-40 on her serve in the 12th game of the first set, but recovered to deuce before losing the next two points.

Shriver lost her service in the fifth and seventh games of the second set, leaving her U.S. compatriot to serve out for the match. "I felt on top and in control in the first set but was so exhausted in the second that I completely lost concentration," said the defending champion. "I made so many errors in approach shots and you can't do that against Chris."

Lloyd said her opponent came in so early during the rallies that she was forced into a baseline game. "Pam is tough to play and never gives up but her back strokes are vulnerable," she declared.

Lloyd, who will leave for home Sunday for a three week break before competing in the Canadian and U.S. Opens, said she would probably return for the next Australian Open.

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RESULTS OF HORSE RACES FRIDAY JULY 13, 1984

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the fifth race took place on His Highness Cup. Receiving His Highness to the club were, His Excellency Sharif Jamil Ibn Nasser, His Excellency Mohammad Al Zaben, minister of communications, members of the Royal Racing Club and thousands of citizens.

At the end of the race Prince Hassan delivered the cup to Princess Badi'a Al Hassan, as her horse Al Badi'a won the race. The rest of the results were as follows:

FIRST RACE:

For beginners
Distance: 1,400 metres.
Time: 2 minutes 7 seconds

1ST:	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Shahirazad	Ziad Abboud
2ND:	D. El Mushakar	Talab A. Al Kadir
3RD:	Amal	Saieil Al Faiez

SECOND RACE:

For beginners
Distance: 1,400 metres
Time: 1 minute 51 seconds

1ST:	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Soujoud	Mousa Khaled Faiez
2ND:	Shahieh	A. Al Sattar Matar
3RD:	Sinjar	Fahad Sakir

THIRD RACE:

For beginners
Distance: 1,000 metres
Time: 1 minute 9 seconds

1ST:	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Rabadan	Nimr Al Hmoud
2ND:	Kas Al Moulook	Faisal Awwad
3RD:	Holwan	Al Faiez

FOURTH RACE:

For second and third class horses
Distance: 1,000 metres
Time: 1 minute 8 seconds

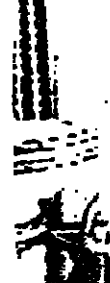
1ST:	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Wisam	A. Ellatif El Hadid
2ND:	D. Al Aswad	Ghaleb Haddadin
3RD:	Blint Al Reeh	Samy Haddadin

FIFTH RACE: H.R.H. Crown Prince Hassan Ibn Talal's Cup

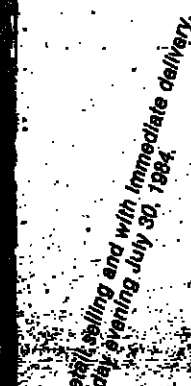
For third class horses
Distance: 1,000 metres
Time: 1 minute 7 seconds

1ST:	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Al Badi'a	H.R.H. Princess Badi'a
2ND:	Apollo	Al Hassan Stables
3RD:	Tarrad	Bahjat Fanous

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(Colour)

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema

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Cinema

ZAHARAN

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TRIP TO MILANO

(Colour)
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Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

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SOON

Abdall: behind ALIA offices

Cinema

PALESTINE

Tel: 22117

1- DISCO
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"Indian Film"

2- COME AND
GET IT
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema

RAGHADAN

Tel: 22198

WANTED

"Indian Film"

(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

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Dollar surges again

WASHINGTON (R) — Higher oil imports helped to widen the U.S. trade deficit to \$8.91 billion in June, taking the shortfall for the year to \$59 billion, the Commerce Department said Friday.

June's deficit, which was only marginally above May's \$8.8 billion dollar figure, was much less than expected by foreign exchange markets and the news sent the dollar shooting up in Europe and New York.

It touched a new 11-1/2 year high of 2.8825 West German marks before falling back to around 2.8800.

The Commerce Department said U.S. oil imports rose 12 per cent in value in June after taking a sharp drop in May.

Imports were down 0.1 per cent from May as manufactured goods, corn and wheat imports declined, but the reduction was not enough to offset a 1.8 per cent decline in

exports.

A strike by German metalworkers may have contributed to fewer car imports, Commerce Department analysts Mr. David Lund said.

Non-oil imports declined 3.5 per cent in June and for the second quarter as a whole. It was the first quarterly reduction in this category since the last three months of 1982 when the recession was bottoming out, Mr. Lund said.

Exports of agricultural goods declined while those of manufactured goods rose for the third consecutive month.

Looking ahead, Mr. Lund said he doubted there would be a repetition of April's record \$12.2 billion deficit.

However, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said he still expected monthly deficits to widen further in the rest of the year.

Stock market fever hits China

PEKING (R) — Stock market fever has hit China 35 years after the last broker sold out, packed his bags and fled the victorious Communist troops in 1949.

This month, the first three share offerings to the Chinese public since the Communist takeover received what Chinese bank officials described as a very favourable response.

The officials said the issues created a new and important instrument for tapping the growing wealth of the average citizen.

The first, by the Foshan Trust and Investment Corp in Guangdong province, was already heavily subscribed, the officials said.

Two more announced this week will soon see China's state banks take an unprecedented role as brokers for a construction company in Canton and a department store in Peking.

A recent economic conference has already suggested the idea of a stock market in the old financial centre of Shanghai and criticised the state banking system for its lack of imagination in creating new vehicles for investment and redistribution of savings.

"The issue has been discussed by economists for quite a long time, but we will have to do it to see what stocks can do to our socialist economy," Mr. Gao Fengshi of the Industrial and Commercial Bank told the China Daily Friday.

Mr. Gao's bank will sell a total 10 million yuan (\$5 million) of shares in 100-yuan (\$50) units on behalf of the new Peking Heavenly Bridge Department Store Corp Ltd.

The central authorities have encouraged the share issues and Chinese bankers have said one reason is to soak up considerable

funds now bottled up in the state banks.

National savings rose to a record 101.2 billion yuan (\$50.5 billion) to June — an increase of 13.5 per cent on the previous year, the Economic Daily reported last Wednesday.

The Chinese stocks, which are something of a cross between a stock and a medium-term bond, hold little risk but offer Chinese investors a generally higher rate of interest than fixed bank deposits.

The department store issue offers investors 5.4 per cent interest annually over a five-year investment period, plus an annual dividend.

A final dividend is also paid on maturity, Mr. Gao said.

The big difference from the Western concept is that so far these shares can be transferred but not traded.

USSR lowers oil price with temporary discount

ROTTERDAM (R) — The Soviet Union Friday underlined the weakness of the world oil market by introducing a temporary discount of \$1.50 a barrel on its Urals crude in what traders said was another sign of a developing price-cutting war among producers.

The cut, effective next Wednesday, brings the European price of Urals blend to \$27.50 a barrel, Rotterdam traders said. They said some contract holders had been notified of the Soviet price reduction.

The news brought renewed pressure on Britain's National Oil Corporation (BNOC) to cut the contract price of North Sea oil, now trading on the spot market at about \$3 a barrel below the \$30 official price for the Brent grade.

In financial markets, the pound sterling came under renewed pressure after the Soviet move, and briefly fell below \$1.31 before recovering a little. Share prices of British oil companies continued to fall sharply.

"The credibility of the present oil price structure is seriously in question," one London broker told Reuters.

Contract holders said they had requested a cut from the Russians because very weak spot oil prices

in a glutted market made it uneconomic to lift Urals crude at the existing contract price of \$29 delivered in Europe.

They said the "temporary discount" formula applying to August purchases was a new one and seemed designed to avoid the appearance of a full contract price cut.

But the discount represented the first formal response by an important producer to the depressed state of the oil market.

Iran has been offering discounts of about \$3 a barrel for some weeks, justified by high freight rates and war risk premiums due to its war with Iraq.

Traders said the Soviet cut was bound to increase pressure for cuts by other oil exporters also threatened with a serious loss of sales. As well as BNOC, these include Nigeria, the most financially hardpressed member of OPEC — the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation, whose Suez blend crude competes closely with Urals, is due to decide this week on its August oil prices.

In Oslo, the state-owned oil company Statoil said it had no immediate plans to lower its crude price following the Soviet move and would wait and see how BNOC reacted before making any decision.

London brokers said that oil had been overstocked during the second quarter of the year when fears were at their peak about an escalating Gulf war and now European markets were oversupplied.

A recent report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) lowering its estimate of oil demand in 1990 has also added to uncertainty and provoked selling of oil shares, which have declined by an average seven per cent in London in the past week.

An apparent lack of resolve by OPEC to tackle the problem of over-production was exacerbating the situation, London traders added.

In Rotterdam traders believe the oil market is on the brink of a price-cutting war under the pressure of the glut caused by too much production.

Kuwait curbs speculation against dinar, capital outflows

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has taken firm steps to curb capital outflows caused by speculation against the country's currency and fears the Gulf war could spread.

Banking sources said speculative transfers of funds had been staunch by several measures taken in recent months to tighten controls over the banks and money exchanges.

They discredited local press reports of a fresh cash drain, in which some one billion dinars (\$3.5 billion) were said to have been moved abroad in the past few weeks.

Banking sources noted monetary officials recently dismissed as "highly exaggerated" talk that over one billion dinars left the country in the past two months.

Big capital outflows from Kuwait are inevitable as a result of regular remittances by its predominantly foreign workforce, and in the absence of foreign exchange controls, bankers said.

But they noted the shifts of money abroad and transfer of funds into dollars held locally had accelerated some months ago.

The sustained strength of the American currency and high yielding U.S. interest rates held considerable attraction at a time domestic interest rates were well below those for dollar deposits.

In the background, the domestic economy still laboured under recession and opportunities for investment at home were limited, bankers said.

Because of its role as a safe haven for so-called distress funds, the dollar assumed extra appeal amid mounting concern over heightened tension in the Gulf, they

added.

"And there are always people around wanting to speculate. With the stock market still in the doldrums after the 1982 crash, people have been seeking other alternatives," one said.

Another noted that gold was a popular speculative vehicle during the Iranian revolution and when the Gulf war started. "But it doesn't hold much promise at the moment, so the options have been trimmed," he said.

By last March, funds placed in local foreign currency deposits had already virtually doubled over a 15-month period to around 630 million dinars (\$2.1 billion), mostly in dollars, bankers said.

Then, as demand for dollars surged to record levels in April, the central bank acted to quell what it saw as a speculative spree

developing at the expense of the dinar.

It clamped down on the 30 to 50 money exchange firms, stopping them from trading in foreign exchange on behalf of banks abroad and from representing foreign banks or foreign exchange establishments.

The central bank also slashed the access of banks to dollars it supplied at preferential rates to back commercial transactions, and demanded documentation such as a letter of credit to prove the dollars were required for commercial reasons.

To enable it to monitor more closely movements of capital out of Kuwait, it also imposed on the banks more stringent disclosure requirements regarding the identity of customers and sums involved in dollar deals done in the

free market.

The authorities have meanwhile manoeuvred domestic interest rates up sharply to compete against the high rates in the United States, and attract funds back into dinars, one banker said.

"The package has had an impact," another banker said. "Although some people want their money out, the majority appear happy to have it here at what are now far more interesting returns."

Bankers said the recent adjustment in monetary policy has led to the abandonment of a long-standing gentleman's agreement between the banks not to quote more than 7.5 per cent interest on customer deposits.

"I'd be surprised if the going rate wasn't nine to 10 per cent for deposits of one to six months now," said one banker.

South Korea is committed to expand steel industry

SEOUL (R) — South Korea, already accused by traditional steelmakers in other countries of dumping crude steel on a world market depressed by overcapacity, is planning to expand production dramatically to meet domestic demand.

Officials in the industry say they expect domestic steel needs to grow by between 10 and 15 per cent annually to meet infrastructure requirements for South Korea's industrialisation programmes.

The mainly state-owned Pohang Iron and Steel Company (Posco), which has in the past two years increased its crude steel capacity from 5.5 million tonnes to 9.1 million, has started building an integrated mill which will eventually double its capacity.

Last month the company sponsored an international conference attended by some 1,700 experts to introduce the technical system of the new mill.

Mr. Park Tae-Jun, who has fostered the industry in South Korea as Posco chief for the past 15 years, told the conference that the steel industry would continue to play an important role in the country's efforts to join the ranks of industrialised countries.

Traditional steelmakers charge that South Korea, with an annual crude steel production capacity of 13 million tonnes, creates trouble by dumping.

Foreign competitors say any expansion by South Korea would aggravate the surplus in the sluggish world market, endangering the survival of existing steel mills.

But South Korea replies that two major contributors to the country's 9.3 per cent growth in Gross National Product (GNP)

last year were the steel-hungry shipbuilding and construction industries.

South Korean shipyards won about a fifth of the world's shipbuilding orders last year and construction activities are brisk in preparation for the 1986 Asian games and the 1988 Olympics, both to be held in Seoul.

South Korea exported more than five million tonnes of steel last year, mostly to the United States, Japan and South East Asia. But Posco officials say local consumption will outpace domestic production by 1988, the year when the first phase of Posco's new mill will be completed with an additional 2.7 million tonne capacity.

Posco plans call for three more phases of expansion of the mill at Kwangyang bay in the south of the country, each with similar capacity. But the company says they would be carried out in line with the international market situation.

The \$2.2 billion first phase is being built amid bitter disputes over alleged dumping with competitive steel producers, mainly those in the United States and Japan.

The South Koreans say their steel is made in modern plants which are cheaper to operate than those of their competitors.

For instance, hot coil cost \$314.72 per tonne on the local market in 1981, but \$350.91 in Japan and \$390.01 in the United States, said Mr. Choi Hyung-Sup, chairman of the Institute for System Development.

The South Koreans see the present bleak times in the steel industry as a chance to cash in on the introduction of more efficient production methods. The situation has made it a buyer's market for steel-making equipment and Posco managed to get the plant at bargain prices and terms.

The Japanese steel industry has long been reluctant to help South Korea build the Kwangyang mill because Posco, its main competitor in the Asian market and a chief exporter to Japan, was built with technology and soft loans from Japan.

Japanese companies declined Posco's request two years ago to help in the production of seamless pipes, a product increasingly in demand in energy development. South Korea does not have technology for seamless pipes.

But the Japanese industry has now reversed its position and Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Corporation won a contract for a hot strip rolling mill worth \$171.4 million in a consortium that included a South Korean firm.

Earlier this year the U.S. Export-Import Bank approved loan guarantees for two American firms bidding on construction and equipment contracts for the mill, despite trade union criticism and protests from the Commerce Department.

Department officials urged the bank to deny the financing, arguing the project could severely damage the interests of American steel producers.

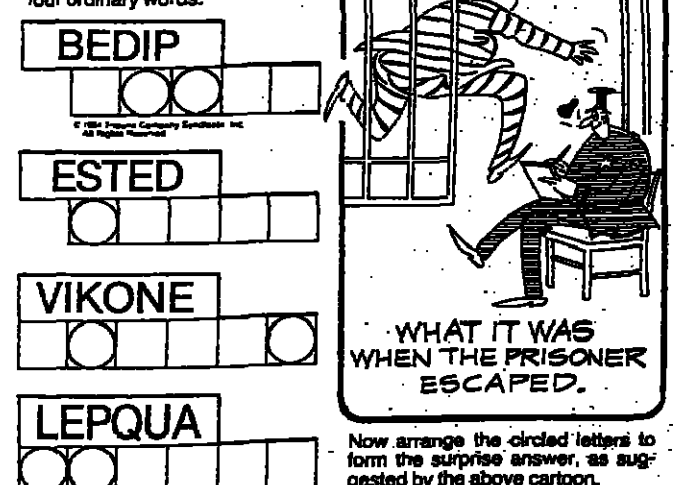
But the bank said the Pennsylvania-based Dravo-Wellman Company and the Air Products and Chemicals Company were given the loan guarantee commitments because the firms were competing against European and Japanese companies for some \$30 million in contracts on the steel project.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

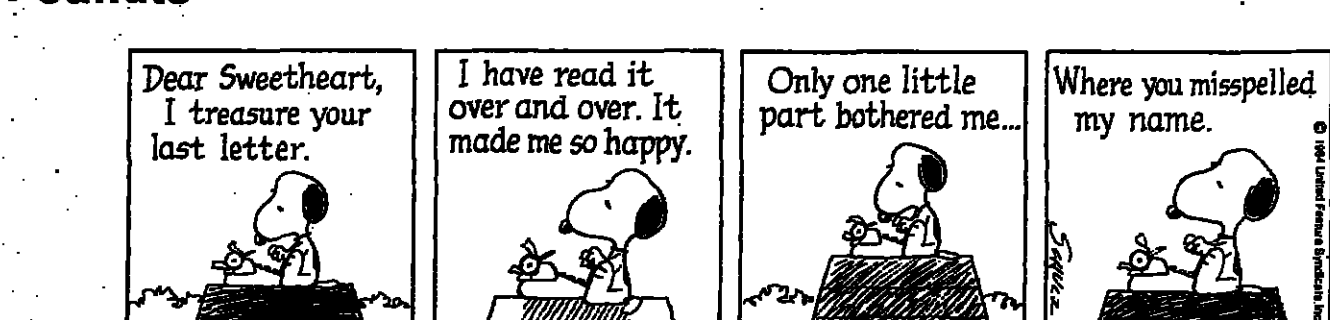
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: A OF THE (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: YODEL HABIT BROGUE EGOISM
Answer: What that nut who caught a cold must have been — HOARSE & BUGGY

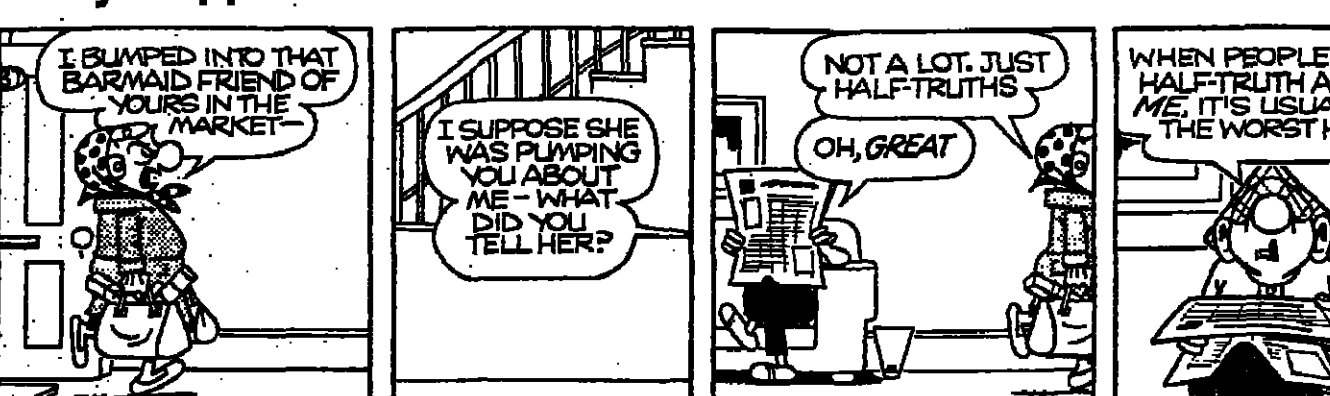
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Iraq lifts currency controls

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Friday issued a decree lifting curbs on foreign currency transfers to Baghdad by Iraqis living abroad.

The decree, issued by Trade Minister Hassan Ali, appeared aimed at swelling the country's foreign exchange coffers, which have been reduced sharply during 46 months of war with Iran.

The decree also promised to exempt all Iraqis living overseas from penalties for what up to now has been the illegal transfer of savings back home.

It did not say how such illegal transactions had been made.

Economy aids Reagan's re-election campaign

WASHINGTON (R) — During his heady days in Hollywood, then-actor Ronald Reagan could not have asked for a better script. The U.S. economy is turning in a dazzling performance just when he is seeking a second term as president.

Economic growth is exceeding all expectations, hundreds of thousands of Americans are going back to work every month and inflation has slowed to a pace not seen since the 1960s when the United States stood tallest as the world's pre-eminent industrial power.

Opposition Democrats, led by presidential nominee Mr. Walter Mondale, repeatedly warn that U.S. interest rates are set to rise again and that the massive federal budget deficit will eventually stall the country's robust recovery.

But so far their cries of alarm appear to be falling on deaf ears. "You couldn't ask for a better script for an incumbent president," Mr. Edward Yardeni, economist for Wall Street stockbrokers and analysts Prudential-Bache, told Reuters.

"Certainly no Democrat can ask an American voter if he feels worse off today than he did four years ago," he added.

When Republican Reagan took office in January 1981 with a promise to revive America's lullustre economy, the nation was poised on the brink of recession, inflation was running at over 12 per cent, unemployment stood at 7.8 per cent and interest rates were 21 per cent.

Today, the economy is growing at an annual rate of 7.5 per cent. Inflation has been cut to about three per cent, unemployment has dropped to 7.1 per cent and interest rates are down to 13 per cent.

Much to the administration's satisfaction, all of this has come together just months before the Nov. 6 election.

White House strategists are keenly aware that Americans, when the country is not at war, traditionally choose their president on the basis of economic issues.

Mr. Mondale and his running mate Ms. Geraldine Ferraro have hammered away at this theme relentlessly, both at the San Francisco convention where they were nominated and on the campaign trail since.

Horoscope and crosswords not received

Moscow says U.S. made space talks impossible

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union says the United States has made talks on space weapons impossible because of what it calls America's deceitful attitude, but Washington says Moscow has misrepresented the U.S. position.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Komplexkov told reporters Friday that the U.S. reply to the latest Soviet proposal on the talks had referred only to "issues of concern to both sides" without mentioning space weapons.

"The position of the United States has made impossible negotiations as proposed by the Soviet government," he said.

Soon after he spoke, the Official News Agency TASS issued a statement saying Washington wanted "a general discussion on everything and about nothing specifically."

"Being faced with the need to

reveal its actual position, the American side left no doubt by its reply that it was engaged in deceitful play over the question of Soviet-proposed talks on the militarisation of outer space and was not going to enter into such talks," TASS said.

In Washington, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the TASS statement "misrepresents our position, which is that we have accepted the Soviet proposal for discussions in Vienna in September without preconditions."

Mr. Komplexkov said that to make the Vienna talks possible,

the United States should say: "Yes, there is a problem of the militarisation of space... let's talk about finding a solution to this problem."

The United States would like the new talks to include nuclear weapons on earth as well as armaments in space.

The Soviet Union, which broke off talks on medium-range and strategic missiles in Geneva last year after the United States deployed nuclear rockets in Europe, has refused. It says it will only resume nuclear arms talks if the deployment was halted and missiles already in place removed.

Friday's statements followed a series of diplomatic exchanges during which Moscow and Washington have been trying to work out a joint statement on the proposed space weapons talks.



Eva Jafar, the alleged "Mata Hari" figure in the sex for secrets spy trial, arrives in London to give evidence at the Old Bailey where airmen Paul Davies was on trial for passing secrets to the 31-year-old mother of three (AP wirephoto)

British airman found innocent of spy charge

LONDON (AP) — A British airman accused of exchanging military secrets for sexual favours from a beautiful woman in Cyprus was found innocent Friday by an Old Bailey criminal court jury.

Airman Paul Davies, 21, accused in what the British press dubbed the "Mata Hari" trial, showed no emotion as the verdict was read after six hours and 38 minutes of jury deliberation over two days.

His mother, Jean Davies, clapping her husband's hand, smiled with relief as her son was pronounced innocent on three charges under Britain's Official Secrets Act.

Minutes later Mr. Davies walked from the court, smiling at a group of waving onlookers and left in a taxi without speaking to reporters.

Davies, who denied the charges, will return after a week's vacation, to his Royal Air Force unit at a base in the London area, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said.

"We are going to look at (Dav-

ies') position to see whether any other action is appropriate," the spokesman said.

Mr. Davies testified that he and Hungarian-born Eva Jafar, 31, kissed and cuddled after meeting when he was based in Britain's Episkopi Air Base in Cyprus. But he denied they had sexual intercourse and that he gave her official secrets last September.

Mrs. Jafar was flown from her home in Lebanon at taxpayers' expense to be a defence witness. She denied being a spy and said she had done nothing more than kiss and dance with Mr. Davies.

The prosecution alleged that Mr. Davies had passed three military communications to Mrs. Jafar last September and that she had been in contact with Syrian intelligence.

Mr. Davies, a telegraphist at the Cyprus base, was charged with passing classified information that could be useful to an enemy.

Mr. Davies said he had confessed to the charges last year because his interrogators threatened to beat him.

Bulgaria denies U.S. claims of smuggling drugs

VIENNA (Agencies) — Bulgaria Friday rejected as "slanders" U.S. officials' reports that the Communist country fosters drug smuggling to Western Europe and the United States.

Testifying before a House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, John Lawn, Acting Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, said last Tuesday "The government of Bulgaria does co-operate (with) and facilitate ... organized drug trafficking from Bulgaria." "All this goes far beyond the limits of normal diplomatic relations between two states," said the Bulgarian report by Nencho Hranov, political observer of the state-run BTA News Agency.

According to the dispatch, none of the speakers addressing the subcommittee "in a markedly anti-Bulgarian and slanderous style" could point to "a single case of illegal drug trafficking in which Bulgaria participated or even in which one Bulgarian citizen participated."

The seven-part official denial said "the current anti-Bulgarian

campaign eloquently proves that slander is turning into a U.S. state policy."

It added: "We want to believe that in the U.S. Congress there are enough sensible people who will not allow this supreme legislative forum to be used for acts which have nothing in common with the interests of the American people and with the development of normal relations" between Bulgaria and the United States.

The U.S. report charged that one of the reasons Bulgaria is in the international drug trafficking business "is to supply and support several dissident groups in the Middle East with Western arms and ammunition, in support of Communist revolutionary aims."

By supporting such traffic, says the report, Bulgaria could force drug traffickers in the Middle East into gathering intelligence.

The report also alleges that Bulgaria "appears to have established a policy of encouraging and facilitating the trafficking of narcotics under the corporate veil of Kintex," the official Bulgarian trading agency.

COLUMN

Pollster George Gallup dies

NEW YORK (R) — George Gallup, whose name became synonymous with opinion polls, had died aged 82 in a hospital near his summer home in Switzerland, his company announced here. Mr. Gallup founded the American Institute of Public Opinion in 1935. It became a powerful force in U.S. political life and spawned offshoots in several dozen countries around the world. Officials at the hospital in the Swiss lakeside town of Tban, south of Bern, said Mr. Gallup was brought there Friday afternoon and died shortly afterwards. The cause of death was not announced. The Gallup Poll, based on a randomly selected cross-section of the public, tested opinion on almost everything but it was on politics that it rose to fame, starting with a startling success in the presidential election of 1936. Gallup predicted a landslide victory for Franklin Roosevelt based on samples of only a few thousand people. The leading opinion poll of the day, conducted by the Literary Digest, predicted that Republican Alf Landon would win.

Tanzania bans export of animal skin goods

NAIROBI (R) — Tanzania has banned the export of items made from Leopard and Cheetah skins to comply with an agreement on international trade in endangered species, Dar Es Salaam Radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Friday. A statement issued by the Wildlife Department said the ban would take effect next Wednesday and ordered traders in Leopard and Cheetah skin goods to sell their stocks to residents in the country and not to tourists, the radio said. It added that all trade in the items had been suspended, apparently after present stocks were exhausted, but gave no details.

Copenhagen's Little Mermaid restored

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Denmark's best-known statue, the little mermaid, has had the arm cut off by vandals reattached at a metal shop and is ready to be returned to a perch at the mouth of the Copenhagen Harbour. City Architect Ejvind Lorenzen said "wind and the weather" would decide which day the 71-year-old statue, damaged by the vandals on July 22, can return to the harbour. Mr. Lorenzen also said the city turned down an offer by a West German Pharmaceutical Company to cover the (\$4,000) repair bill as promotion for its trade mark, also a mermaid. Mr. Lorenzen said workmen have prepared the site for when harbour conditions allow a floating salvage crane to approach the statue's home at water's edge.

Second panda may be pregnant

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ling-Ling, a giant panda from China, may be pregnant again. Her urine test came back positive, officials at National Zoo said Friday. If the test is right, veterinarians say Ling-Ling should give birth before the middle of August. The 118 kilogramme giant panda, who has been showing all the signs of impending motherhood in recent weeks, was said to be gathering bamboo twigs used as nesting material. Ling-Ling's mate, Hsing-Hsing, was a big disappointment in the manhood department for years, but is unquestionably the father this time. The two mated on March 19. Ling-Ling gave birth to a single cub July 21, 1983, but the cub died of a respiratory infection three hours after birth.

114-year-old woman dies

DRANIA, Greece (R) — A woman in the northern Greek mountain village of Grania died Thursday at the age of 114, local officials said. Emince Oglu Ahmet Mustafa, a member of the Pomak community of Muslims, had been in good health, caring for herself in the house where she lived alone. She died of old age. A birth certificate dated from the days of Ottoman rule confirmed she was born in 1870. She is survived by four of her eight children.

3 Soviet cosmonauts prepare for descent

MOSCOW (AP) — Three Soviet cosmonauts, including the first woman to make a spacewalk, prepared to return to earth after 10 days aboard the orbiting Salyut-7 station, Radio Moscow said.

The radio broadcast did not say when the team would make its descent. Soviet space missions usually return to earth with a dry landing in Central Asia.

Flight Commander Vladimir Dzhanibekov, engineer Svetlana Savitskaya, and researcher Igor Volk rocketed into orbit on July 17 and docked the next day with Salyut-7, joining three other cosmonauts who have been aboard the station since Feb. 9.

Ms. Savitskaya became the first woman to make two space flights, and on Wednesday added another first when she and commander Dzhanibekov left Salyut-7 for a 3

hour, 35 minute spacewalk.

If the Soviets follow previous practice, the three members of the Soyuz T-12 would return in the Soyuz T-11 spacecraft, which has been docked to Salyut-7 since a Soviet-Indian mission in April.

In that case, they would leave the Soyuz T-12 capsule, which brought them to Salyut-7, for possible use by the long-term crew when they return to earth.

The Soviet Union has not said how long Vladimir Solovov, Eonid Kizim, and Oleg Aitkov will stay in space, but leaving them a fresh spacecraft would prolong the potential duration of their mission.

The endurance record in outer space, 211 days, was set by two Soviet cosmonauts in 1982. The three men in the current long-term crew have been aloft for 170 days.

U.S. election campaign starts early, gets rough

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. presidential election campaign has clearly begun about six weeks early with President Reagan and the Democrats already blasting each other in what promises to be a rough and nasty contest.

Within a week after the Democratic nominating convention made Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro the opposition ticket for the Nov. 6 election, Mr. Reagan re-arranged his schedule and swept through Texas, Georgia and New Jersey, portraying the Democrats as being "So far left, they have left America."

His attacks illustrated the strategy Mr. Reagan has chosen to reduce the impact of Ms. Ferraro without offending women voters.

A 48-year-old congresswoman from New York, she is the first female vice presidential candidate on a major party ticket.

The technique used by Mr. Reagan and Vice President George Bush is to lump her with Mr. Mondale as extreme liberals out of touch with the average American.

"It is very important that Mondale not be able to hide behind Ferraro," says Reagan Campaign Manager Edward Rollins.

Mr. Rollins and other analysts attribute a sudden opinion poll surge by Mr. Mondale to the excitement generated by Ms. Ferraro.

In two voter surveys taken just after the Democratic Convention ended in San Francisco on July 20, Mondale-Ferraro led Reagan-Bush by 48-46 per cent in the Gal-

lup poll and trailed by only 50-48 in the Harris poll.

With women forming about 52 per cent of the U.S. electorate and feminists more politically active than ever, Mr. Reagan's quandary is how to sow doubts about Ms. Ferraro without repeating such gaffes as an early remark suggesting her nomination was "tokenism."

His tentative solution is to identify her as part of a "Democratic leadership" that "offers a three-point programme: fear the future, ignore the present and forget the past."

Mr. Bush is following suit, telling one audience the Democrats convention hall should have been called "the temple of doom."

Acknowledging that the campaign is already under way long before September, its traditional start, both Reagan aide Stuart Spencer and Ms. Ferraro used the word "nasty" in recent chats with reporters to describe what they anticipate from the other side.

"I've heard some of the most incredible rumours about myself," said Ms. Ferraro, who declined to elaborate.

She has come under fire recently because of disclosures that she did not list the income of her husband, a wealthy real estate developer, on financial disclosure forms required by Congress.

She insists that she was not obliged to do so because his income is separate, although she is listed as an officer of his firm.

U.S. seeks Cuban policy changes

WASHINGTON (AP) — A State Department spokesman said on Friday that the United States would not hold comprehensive talks with Cuba until that country demonstrates a willingness to make fundamental changes in its foreign policy.

The department's Deputy Spokesman, Alan Romberg, said that press reports of a speech Thursday night by Cuban President Fidel Castro suggest U.S. preconditions have not been met.

He said Castro indicated he is prepared to continue talks on migration issues. But Mr. Romberg said, "a broader review of the relationship would depend upon Cuba's actions in a variety of areas."

Previously, President Ronald Reagan's administration has said these areas include Cuba's relationship with the Soviet Union, its troop commitments to several African countries, especially Angola, and its alleged efforts to promote subversion in Central America.

Nicaragua begins registration of voters

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Nicaraguans, on a four-day voter registration holiday, signed up by the thousands Friday to cast ballots Nov. 4 in the first election since the Sandinista revolution five years ago.

Seven parties, the Sandinistas and others that support them to varying degrees, have registered candidates for the election for president, vice president and a legislature that is to write a new constitution. A coalition of four opposition parties has announced it will boycott the election.

About 1.2 million Nicaraguans

16 and older out of a population of 2.8 million are expected to register.

One of the first voters to register was Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the governing junta and presidential candidate of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front.

He had to present two people to officially identify him because he failed to bring the passport, driver's license, social security card or birth certificate required to register.

Speaking with reporters after he registered, Mr. Ortega said the

opposition boycott "is the product of pressure from the U.S. embassy in Managua."

The man who was the opposition coalition's candidate for president, Arturo Cruz, Mr. Ortega said, "is a direct instrument of the American administration and will return to Washington to receive new orientation to justify an American invasion of Nicaragua."

Mr. Cruz, an economist and a former member of the governing junta, was ambassador to the United States for about a year, until November 1982.

Pressures grow for jobs through hour cuts around the world

By David Lewis
Reuter

LONDON — As lengthy dole queues raise the political pressure on many governments around the world, trade unions and politicians are urging cuts in the working week.

But will this create more jobs? A Reuter survey reveals widespread doubts that shorter hours will really spell new work opportunities for the unemployed.

Belgian workers last week won a 72-minute reduction in their hours, and in June West German metalworkers won a 1-1/4 hour cut after a seven-week strike designed to create 1.4 million jobs by reducing the basic week to 35 from 40 hours.

"No to mass unemployment means yes to IG-Metall's demands for a 35-hour week," Metallworkers' Chief Hans Mayr said in April.

But not even all trade unionists agree that work-sharing can be a cure for unemployment.

"The concept has been tested, and does not work," says Anders Backstrom, a labour analyst with Sweden's Trade Union Federation.

The main problem for firms is how to remain competitive in world markets if they cut their working week. Work-sharing costs money unless it goes hand in hand with wage-sharing — a condition most people in work are reluctant to accept.

If the cost of shorter hours is met by higher productivity, on the other hand, no jobs are created.

In the Third World, the concern of workers to maintain their own jobs and boost what are often bar-

ely subsistence wages means shorter working hours must take a very low priority.

And the calls for a shorter work week are less strident in hard-working Japan or the booming United States than in Europe.

Unemployment in the U.S. has fallen sharply in recent months to just over seven per cent, while factory workers have been ready to put in longer hours to secure jobs after the recession.

The average number of hours worked each week in the United States rose to 40.9 this year from 39.7 in 1980.

"It's very definitely a pronounced policy of ours to negotiate for a shorter work week as the only way to relieve unemployment," said a spokesman for the AFL-CIO, an umbrella organisation embracing most major U.S. unions.

But he said unions had not pressured Congress over hours since they had won a basic 40-hour week late last century.

In the European Community — where unemployment is 12.2 million or 10.5 per cent and still rising — Socialist leaders called last month for a 35-hour working week to create jobs.

Dick Spring, deputy prime minister of Ireland, said unemployment in the community would rise to 20 million by 1990 without an immediate response on investment and work-sharing.

In 1981, incoming Socialist President Francois Mitterrand cut France's working week by one hour to 39 hours and introduced a fifth week's holiday. But a study by the National Statistics Institute said only 14,000 to 28,000 jobs had been created.

Mr. Backstrom points to the French experience as one reason for the hostility of Swedish trade unions to attempts at job creation through shorter hours.

"In theory, this plan should have provided more than a million new jobs," he said. "But it actually failed to reduce overall unemployment."

The number of people out of work in France rose to 2.3 million last month, more than 10 per cent of the workforce, from 1.8 million in June 1981.

Britain vetoed a recommendation by the executive commission of the 10-nation European Community last month that member countries should encourage cuts in working time.

Employment Secretary Tom King said Britain's experience was that shorter hours could actually lead to job losses as firms struggled to boost productivity to absorb costs.

"The biggest cause of lost jobs in Europe has been Europe's lack of competitiveness," Mr. King said. "This recommendation might end up by creating more jobs — but they will be jobs outside Europe."

Trade union demands to work fewer hours tend to include the phrase "with no loss of pay" — a condition opposed by companies anxious not to push up their unit costs by recruiting new staff and by governments worried about competitiveness.

As Mr. King implied, small cuts in hours may create no jobs at all if firms ensure that 40 hours work is done in 39 or, in the case of West Germany, 38 1/2 hours.

In Germany, the engineering union IG Metall — Western Europe's biggest trade union — had

sought a five-hour cut in working hours, which it said would create 1.4 million new jobs.

But labour market analysts and economists said this month they believed no jobs would be created by a mere 1-1/4-hour cut.

The agreement reached in Belgium, where unemployment is 11.8 per cent, recognised that shorter hours can create jobs only if the 72-minute cut over two years is made without insisting on higher productivity.

The Belgian Employers' Federation agreed to add 1.5 per cent a year to its wage bill to finance extra part-time jobs. The cost of this will be more than offset by an effective real pay cut of two per cent imposed on all workers in each of the next three years by changes to a government wage indexation system.

In Britain, the government, employers and also many workers — despite a call from the Trade Union Congress (TUC) for a 35-hour week — are reluctant to see shorter working hours.

Although unemployment stands at more than three million, a rate of 12.7 per cent, British manufacturing workers put in an average 42.2-hour week last year, up on 1981 and including three hours of lucrative overtime.

The Communist-led CGIL Union in Italy is considering ideas for work-sharing, but has exerted little pressure so far. Italian working conditions are hard to pin down because of the substantial "submerged" or "moonlight" economy in which as many as four million Italians work long hours in unregistered jobs.

In Turkey, wage rises and a reform of workers' social and legal

rights are higher priorities than shorter weeks.

"With only about 2.5 million unionisable workers and around four million unemployed, we are not in a position to demand very much," explained one senior union official.

Similar feelings were expressed by officials canvassed in other less developed countries.

Clerks in India may earn as little as 600 rupees (\$60) a month. "So we fight mainly for higher wages and not shorter working hours or social benefits," says Indrajit Gupta, general secretary of the All India Trades Union Congress.

Mexican workers, whose purchasing power fell 46 per cent last year, are not pressing long-standing demands for their week to be cut by five to 40 hours a week.

Pay rather than the length of the day or week is also the main concern for newly-unionised black workers in South Africa.

"Our primary goal is a minimum living wage and a reduction of the gap between skilled and unskilled workers," says the rosaryw Cameroonian secretary of the Council of Unions of South Africa. "Then we can talk about reduced hours."

Nor has there been any talk of cutting hours in the Soviet Union, which has a basic 41-hour working week. But many Western and Soviet analysts agree that job-sharing to reduce unemployment is how the entire Soviet economy works.

The Soviet state guarantees everyone a job, a promise made possible by what Westerners would see as gross overmanning and numerous jobs of no visible worthwhile function.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠109652 ♥9873 ♦652 ♣4
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠
2 ♦ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K76 ♥5 ♦AK107 ♠K983
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
4 ♥ Dble Pass 4 ♠
Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A85 ♥AKQJ952 ♦65 ♣8
What is your opening bid?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A83 ♥QJ6 ♦AKQ9873
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A87 ♥95 ♦AJ5 ♠AQ982
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠96 ♥AQ1054 ♦Q93 ♠762
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

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